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AND

China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LVII.]

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BIETHS.

On the 26th December, at Wonsan, Corea, the wife of C. E. S. WAKEFIELD, of a daughter, NORAH.

On the 8th January, at Pasir Panjang, Straits, the wife of H. LALLEMENT, of a daughter.

On the 12th January, at 8, Chusan Road, Shanghai, the wife of RONALD C. HOWLETT, of a son.

On the 16th January, at Shanghai, the wife of S. P. WHITE-COOPER, of a son.

On the 16th January, at No. 5, Wild Dell, the wife of J. BAGGARIDGE, of a son.

On the 16th January, at "The Acacias," Robinson Road, Kowloon, the wife of W. KING, of a son.

On the 22nd January, at No. 2, Gomes Villas, Kowloon, the wife of L. P. GLISSMANN, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On the 3rd January, at Penang, Dr. JAMES EMILE SMITH, Assistant Surgeon, to ALICE WARD, second daughter of A. A. McINTYRE.

DEATHS.

On the 11th January, at Shiakwan, Nanking, HARRY EDWIN MEADE, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Agent, aged 27 years.

On the 13th January, at No. 4, Kuangping Road, Shanghai, WATSON W. RICH, chief engineer of the Hankow-Canton Railway, aged 61 years.

On the 13th January, at Shanghai, FELIX FREDERICO CAROZZI, of the Mercantile Marine.

On the 16th January, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, JUSTUS WILHELM MEILENHAUSEN, aged 58 years.

On the 15th January, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, JAMES CAMPBELL GRANT, aged 52 years.

On the 19th January, at his residence, at Walkeshwar, Malabar Hill, Bombay, VALUBHDASS BALMOOKUNDASS, one of the partners in the firm of Abdoolally-Ebrahim & Co. (By wire.)

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 19th December arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 17th January (29 days); the Canadian mail of the 11th December arrived, per C.P.R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 20th January (40 days); and the German mail of the 23rd December arrived, per N.D.L. steamer *Stuttgart*, on the 24th January (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Temple of Heaven railway station at Peking has been suddenly abolished, and coolies started removing the rails on the 19th inst.

On the 22nd inst. being the second anniversary of the accession of King Edward VII, the shiping in the Harbour here was gaily decorated and the warships fired the customary salute.

According to a statement in the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, there appears to be some foundation for the statement that the Chinese Court is contemplating the enforced adoption of European clothes by Chinese officials. This is an instance of the absurdities perpetrated in the name of reform. Meanwhile the real reforms, of course, are not carried out.

The *Morning Post's* Berlin correspondent states that the Press there mentions with displeasure the intention to raise the Japanese legations in Europe to the rank of Embassies. The *Lokalanzeiger* observes that the majority of the Powers are averse to the promotion, but are obliged to consent if England favours Japan's proposal.

The Lord Mayor of London presided at the celebration of the seventy-ninth anniversary of the Birkbeck Institution on the 21st inst., when Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister who gave away the prizes, said that the country which wished to rank high must prove its superiority in work and products. His Government, he said, never failed to impress this fact on the Japanese.

A Laffan's telegram says that, notwithstanding China's refusal to give her authority, Russia is constituting a Customs office at Dalny, with the intention of establishing similar stations throughout the railway district of Manchuria. The refusal, however, of assistance from Sir Robert Hart and the Chinese Imperial Customs is likely to handicap the scheme.

Mr. Morrison, tidewater at Samshui, was wounded on the 21st inst. by a pirate who fired from a cabin of the passage-boat *On Fat*, which journeys between Canton and West River ports. The *On Fat* had already been searched for pirates, who were known to be disguised on board, and five men had been arrested. A second search was made, Mr. Morrison going to the *On Fat* with some armed Chinese, one of whom shot Mr. Morrison's assailant dead. Four men were captured. Mr. Morrison is doing well.

The weather has been so severe in the Inland Sea of Japan that the sea was frozen over in places near Metajiri.

There is outspoken sympathy expressed in Australia with the whites in the Transvaal who are protesting against the introduction of Chinese labourers into the mines.

It is not considered probable that the Straits Currency Commission's report can be ready before the middle of next month, when it is expected that it will be first communicated to Singapore.

There were still cases of plague in Tokyo when the last mails left Japan, and the inhabitants of the Azabu district declare that it was deliberately imported into their midst by blundering officials.

A Russian flotilla of 25 vessels has been formed to protect the navigation of the Amur and the Usuri against Chinese pirates, to watch the Manchurian bank, and effect a speedy mobilisation in the event of war.

It is reported that Na Tung, who is to follow Prince Tsai Cheng as representing Chinese at the Osaka Exhibition, has been ordered to make investigations with regard to the Japanese adoption of a gold currency.

It is stated that the long pending question of the Seoul electric railway has been settled and that it is to be sold to a Belgian syndicate. The representative of the latter is said to have arrived in the Korean capital. This railway is heavily in debt to an American firm which supplied the materials and constructed the road.

The *China Times* learns from an authoritative source that negotiations for the purchase of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. by the Chinese Government have been broken off and the project abandoned. Powerful influences were brought to bear to prevent the sale, which would probably not have conduced to the good fortune of the company.

China has suggested to Washington that if the Powers insist on a gold indemnity she should be allowed to collect her customs dues in gold. The United States reply that, China having agreed to a silver indemnity, she is unable to give her assent. Great Britain has proposed a reduction in the instalments by the prolongation of the period of forty years in which the total is at present payable.

The *N.C. Daily News* correspondent telegraphs under date Peking, 13th January:—As a result of the fall in silver, the instalment now payable to the Powers on account of the indemnity is increased by £15,300,000, for which the Ministers have repeatedly pressed the Chinese Government. The latter is still appealing to be allowed to pay on the silver basis, representing that in the present unfavourable position of China's finances no more can be provided than the tael amount agreed upon in the Peace Protocol. This appeal has not been favourably received by the Foreign Ministers. Some of the highest officials in Peking propose, as a means of making up the deficiency, to make the Customs duties payable on the gold basis, but to this the Powers absolutely decline to agree. The provincial officials fearing an increase of the burdens laid on them, are strongly opposing the payment on the gold basis, and the Chinese Government is accordingly in a greatly distressed condition.

CHINA AND THE INDEMNITY.

(Daily Press, 17th January.)

Last week there appeared in our contemporary, the *Mercury* of Shanghai, an article entitled "China deserves no pity." This was suggested by the statements, telegraphed via London, of the *New York Post* to the effect that the United States Secretary of State was strongly supporting China's contention that 400,000,000 Haikwan taels was all she could pay as indemnity to the Powers without serious financial difficulties, and that the United States intended to accept payment on that basis. The *Mercury* says that those who read the statement will smile at China's contention and points to the reports of the Empress Dowager throwing millions away on theatrical entertainments and unnecessary extensions of her palaces. The Shanghai paper continues:—"The Powers would be very foolish were they to follow the lead of the United States. China has committed herself in such a brutal way, in butchering innocent men, women, children and babes, after committing on them unmentionable atrocities, that she deserves no pity whatever. . . . China is a criminal and to treat her as a martyr is only to encourage her to repeat the diabolical deed she committed in 1900, which many of her present high officials joined in and are ready and willing to perpetrate again. China deserves no pity." We regret to see a paper of the standing of the *Shanghai Mercury* take up such a position, which is contrary alike to humanitarian principles and to commercial expediency—perhaps, in the eyes of many, a sufficiently rare combination. In the first place, those who hold the views of the *Mercury* must lend their approval to the policy of squeezing the uttermost farthing possible out of the Chinese, including the entirely innocent inhabitants of the Southern provinces, in order to compensate for the wrongs done by the "Boxers" and their villainous friends in the Imperial Court. The offenders of 1900 are scarcely touched by the levy of the enormous indemnity which China is called upon to pay as the result of the events of that year. In no way can it be contended that the movement of 1900 was a "national" movement. Had Central and Southern China joined with the North, the outbreak would have produced far different effects. Yet we are told to treat China, the whole of China, as a criminal and to extort all we can. Secondly, it is only to be described as surprising that any British journal appearing in China should be found to advocate the policy of insisting on a money indemnity which threatens to check trade. Granted that we have concluded an arrangement with China by which she has bound herself to pay a certain sum in the space of forty years. At the same time she has agreed to remove the principal obstacles to commerce between herself and foreign countries. It must be conceded that the latter is by far the more important part of the treaty. The fine which China was forced to consent to is of relatively little importance to any of the Powers which are to share it; the promised commercial facilities are of the utmost importance to all but a few. To insist, therefore, on the exact payment of the indemnity, while allowing the fulfilment of the promises with regard to trade to be delayed or evaded is nothing short of suicidal. China indeed deserves pity. Not only is she cursed with blind or corrupt rulers, but also the foreign nations with which she is brought into contact are, for the most part, apparently

adopting an attitude which threatens to ruin her without profiting them in the long run. The struggles of the past half-century and more in China have not been with a view that the Powers might screw what money they could out of China, but that they might open China to their trade. Yet they have been constantly put off with indemnities, while trade and intercourse remain under most disastrous restrictions. With regard to the present indemnity, it is easy to say that "China has agreed to it." Had she any alternative? And have not circumstances changed since the treaty was framed, to such an extent as to make the indemnity far heavier than was even intended, while the state of the currency threatens to make it gradually heavier still? It will be seen from REUTER'S telegram of the 14th instant that Great Britain has proposed a reduction in the instalments of the indemnity by the prolongation of the period of forty years in which the total is at present payable. This seems a wise suggestion, if it is coupled with a determination to enforce the other clauses of the treaty between China and the Powers; for by these clauses China, in spite of her rulers, will have a chance of entering on the road to prosperity. At the present she is most heartily to be pitied.

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 19th January.)

It is by no means easy to comprehend the very curious attitude at all times taken up by Germany with regard to Russia. That Germany should desire to be on good terms with her neighbour, and refrain from any act that might border on provocation, is not only natural, but in the general interests of Europe highly commendable. That Germany should continue to maintain her traditional policy of abetting Russia in every scheme of national aggrandisement, careless of the best interests of her closest neighbours, is not only beneath her dignity, but in the long run certain to turn out suicidal. After a good deal of hesitation she at last consented to patch up a renewal of the old Triple Alliance with Austria and Italy, to support them in the case of an attempt on the part of Russia in conjunction with France to commit any unprovoked aggression. The alliance did not raise any sanguine hopes on the part of either, nor, it may be remembered of any of the other Powers in Europe. Germany had paraded somewhat ostentatiously, it may be noted, when making the former alliance, the disinterested character of her motives, and professed to be hurt that England did not throw in her lot with the others. England had consistently held that while she was to be depended on in the case of any aggression it was contrary to her well understood traditions to tie herself to an alliance which would affect her freedom of action; and pointed out that her own interests were stronger than any alliance could possibly be. The course of events showed how wise was the resolution. Germany, then under the guidance of Prince BISMARCK, while entering into an alliance with Austria to guard her in all events against Russia, had at the identical time a secret understanding with Russia for the partition of her ally.

The present case is not dissimilar. Russia in the Treaty of Berlin gave certain engagements to the other Powers of Europe, one of the principal of which was that she renounced the right of passing through the Bosphorus with her men-of-war. Of late years this stipulation has been becoming irksome, and Russia has been seeking by various intrigues with the present Sultan

of Turkey to evade them. Did she come boldly forward and present the case to her colleagues in the agreement, a possible way might have been found out of the difficulty, and it is even possible that the waters of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles might have been thrown open to the war-ships of the world. But Russia felt that it might not be altogether agreeable to have foreign navies prying into her arsenals in the Crimea and elsewhere, so she tried to make private arrangements with the Sultan to shut his eyes to her war-ships making use of the passage, from which the rest were to be excluded. Now it was to prevent just such a course that the other Powers refused to sanction any exercise of her national rights in Turkey in such a manner as to enable her to make private treaties with one to the detriment of the others. There is nothing new or derogatory in such a stipulation. Under the title of the "Favoured Nation" clause it is inserted almost as a custom in many treaties between Powers of the first rank, and the only difference in the present case was that it was agreed to by each and all in the common interest of the whole. In the present instance Russia has been pleading the subterfuge that a man-of-war whose guns have been sent on shore ceases to be a man-of-war, even though her guns may be waiting to be placed on board, and all the armour and fittings are already fixed. In the interests not only of herself, but of all, Great Britain refused to accept such a self-contradictory argument. The other Powers with the exception of France, just now inoculated with Russian virus, at once acknowledged the natural rendering of a sentence as plain as language could make it. Germany herself does not attempt to deny the clear meaning, as that would be impossible. She, however, takes an even less straightforward course; conveniently forgetting that as a signatory of the treaty of Berlin she is equally bound to Great Britain, as Great Britain to her, to support that instrument, unless the Powers should by mutual consent agree to its denunciation, she without consultation with her partners writes privately to Russia and informs that Power that she is no partner of Great Britain.

The whole proceedings are characteristic of the extremely dangerous position of the continent of Europe at the moment and how thin is the sheet of ice on which the statesmen of the various nations are skating. We drew attention to the forces at work in view of the decease of the aged Emperor of Austria, and pointed out how real was the peril, more especially in connection with the recent mischievous agitation for that will-o'-the-wisp, pan-Germanism, in experienced hands. This most recent action of the German Foreign Office does not tend to raise our opinion of the wisdom with which the affairs of the German Empire are conducted.

Writing under date Battambang, 10th December, the *Siam Observer's* special correspondent says:—"Work on the new barracks and stables which were in course of erection was suddenly stopped, I hear, about two months ago. That these and the hospital at Battambang should not be proceeded with is rather a good sign. Early on the morning of the 22nd [P] inst. five mules were sent across the river from Chantaboon into the country in charge of three Annamite soldiers. Three of the mules carried long ammunition boxes on each side. Later on a mounted party of twelve European soldiers and eight Annamite soldiers followed. They were absent the whole day, returning in the evening looking very fatigued. They must have been a considerable distance. The gunboat *Comète* is lying at the mouth of the river.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

The subject of Chinese immigration is at the present day one of much interest in many widely separated parts of the world. The general tendency among governments of European origin seems now to be in favour of checking such immigration entirely or of reducing it within the most narrow limits possible. In a certain number of British colonies, however, the influx of Chinese is not only not restricted but is even very strongly encouraged. In some German and French possessions, too, efforts are being made to induce the Chinese labourer to settle temporarily at least. The arguments for and against the Chinese immigrant have been repeated perhaps *ad nauseam*, but it will generally be found that, except in cases where he is discussing the question from a vague general point of view, based on other people's observations, the personal interests of the writer or speaker entirely colour his expressed opinion. Thus we get diametrically opposed attitudes toward the Chinese immigrant in British North Borneo, say, and on the Pacific Coast. In few places, perhaps, has the advent of the Chinese workman been attended with more successful results than in the Federated Malay States. This fact gives additional interest to the remarks on the subject in a paper read recently before the Colonial Institute by Mr. HUGH CLIFFORD, C.M.G., whose knowledge of what he is writing about none can dispute. The census of the Malay States was taken last in 1901, when the total number of inhabitants was found to be 678,595. Of these the Chinese amounted to 299,739—roughly 148,500 in Perak, 108,500 in Selangor, and 41,500 in the Negri Sembilan and Pahang. "Now, this," says Mr. CLIFFORD, "is a fact with which those who know the conditions of the Peninsula, and those who above everything are anxious for the welfare of the Malays, need find no cause for quarrel." He continues: "In any country inhabited by a race which is unable or unwilling to perform the work necessary to the well-being of the community, the Chinese immigrant must be welcomed with open arms, and it is not too much to say that but for him the success which has attended the work of British administration in the Peninsula could never have been achieved. He has been from the beginning the muscle and sinew of the community, and also, in no small degree, its brains as well. For every one commercial enterprise which owes its success to the initiative of the European in the Peninsula there are hundreds which have been organised, financed, and managed entirely by Chinamen, and the Federated Malay States owe an incalculable debt to the courage, persistence and ability of their Chinese citizens." Praise of the Chinese immigrant could hardly go further, and those who oppose the admission of the Chinese to the Philippines would do well to listen to the words of one so experienced as Mr. CLIFFORD. Countries where the natives are willing and able to perform the work necessary to the well-being of the community, it will be noted, are not referred to by him, and therefore the cases of Australia, British Columbia, the United States, and the Rand are affected by the argument. It must not be imagined, however, that Mr. CLIFFORD regards the presence of the Chinese in Malaya under present conditions with un-mixed complacency. Like practically all

qualities of the Chinese immigrant into foreign lands, he deplors the wholly disproportionate preponderance of males among them and the very small number of children, the regular remittance of large sums of money from the labourers' earnings to China, and the impermanence of the Chinese population generally. There are ten males to one female and twenty-two adults to one child under fifteen years among the Chinese in the Malay States. Almost every Chinaman there has parents or other aged people to whom he sends money annually, and he generally returns home when he has become successful. The Chinaman as a rule does not want to bring his wife or family to the Peninsula, so that state-aided immigration of Chinese women and children does not provide a remedy. The Malay States, therefore, have to face the fact that their Chinese population is one which has only an imperceptible natural increase, that it is kept up or increases solely by excess of immigration over emigration, and that should anything occur to interfere with the supply of immigrants much of the commercial enterprise of the Peninsula would become paralysed. "So far," says Mr. CLIFFORD, "the stream of Chinese immigration has flowed with hardly an interruption, but as a set-off against it the counter-stream of Chinamen returning to their homes must be borne in mind, and it must further be remembered that this counter-stream is largely composed of those who have been most successful in the Peninsula—the men, in fact, who are most highly endowed, and whom it is most to our disadvantage to lose." In view of the fact that the British Government is powerless, from the circumstances of the case, to control the emigration of the Chinese settlers, and of the need of far more labour in the Malay States Mr. CLIFFORD counsels the looking to India for a far greater supply. This of course, it is well known, has already been done, and great efforts have been made to induce Indian labourers to immigrate into the Peninsula—without much success, though the reasons of this are hard to explain. Mr. CLIFFORD holds that the Indian Government is partly to blame. The difficulties in the way, he says, must indeed be of an insuperable character if they are sufficient to prevent a Government such as that of British India from even examining them with a view to their evasion, more especially when a pressure so strong as that supplied by frequent famines would seem to urge the advisability of immediate and energetic action. It is not claimed that the Indian immigrant can compete with the Chinese; but being an useful agricultural labourer and comparatively free from that love of speculation which leads the Chinaman to desert other employment for the chances of the mines, he will, it is hoped, be induced to settle in the Malay Peninsula. The fact remains that at present he does not so settle, to any appreciable extent, and the Chinaman, the harder worker, comes and goes away again.

The Privy Council of Great Britain has decided that British Columbia may refuse the franchise to Japanese. Some time ago the collector of votes for the province, located in Vancouver, refused to enrol the name of a Japanese who applied. The County Court and Supreme Court Justices upheld the appeal of the Japanese, and also the Supreme Court of Canada. The Privy Council has, however, reversed all these orders and given the province the right for which it has contended. General satisfaction is expressed at the decision in British Columbia.

REFORM IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 22nd January.)

The chaotic state in which the "Reform" movement in China is now is well illustrated by certain items of news which have been published within the last few days. We are not referring, we should perhaps say, to any actions of the Reform Party, as it is styled, but to the attitude of the Imperial Court at Peking toward the various innovations which may be grouped together under the name of reforms. We have just learned that the Court contemplates making compulsory the wearing of European dress at state ceremonies. We have also learned from a telegram appearing in our junior evening contemporary that the demolition of the Temple of Heaven railway station at Peking has been decreed and that the rails are being removed. Thus almost at the same moment we find the Chinese authorities proposing to introduce an unnecessary and unsuitable imitation of Western customs and taking the earliest opportunity of doing away with an undoubted benefit conferred on Peking as a result of the Allied occupation in 1900. We only mention these two instances of the Chinese official attitude at the moment, but our readers will no doubt be able to add many others. Now it is impossible to regard even such small matters as devoid of significance. On the contrary, it is from such that we are justified in concluding that any hopes of China being put on the path of true progress by her present rulers is absolutely hopeless. A few trivial conformities to Western customs, not in themselves of any advantage to China, we see and shall doubtless continue to see increasingly as time goes on. But the feelings of the governing clique toward genuine reforms, which will affect the lives of the Chinese people for good, are as hostile as ever they were before the flight from Peking. We have seen none of the anticipated blessings which were to spring from the return of the Court from Kaifeng-fu, with the Emperor restored to his proper position, as we were told he would be. As a matter of fact we hear less now of His Majesty Kwang Hsu than perhaps ever we did since he ascended the throne. And as for his patriotic advisers, who were to guide him to make a better attempt to reform his country than he did before the celebrated *coup d'état*, they are not to be found in the precincts of the Court. It is evident that it is very premature yet to talk of the prospects of reform in China, and that the real progress will not be made by Imperial edicts in the first place. It is to the education of the people by trade and railways and by a modicum of Western learning that the alteration must be brought. The few patriotic Viceroys recognise this, and have honourably distinguished themselves by encouraging the introduction of foreign ideas, etc. That they have done so gives them a claim on the gratitude of those interested in the opening up of China, and it therefore behoves the Powers to reciprocate by honourable dealings with the Chinese. It cannot, unfortunately, be said that such conduct has been the general rule, and the honourable have to share the suspicion inspired by the rest. The history of the relations between China and the rest of the world has never been very creditable to either party. Yet if there is to be an "awakening" of China, there must be upright dealings between her and her exploiters.

COMMERCIALISM IN MODERN LIFE.

(Daily Press, 23rd January.)

The remarks of Baron HAYASHI, the Japanese Minister in London, at the anniversary meeting of the Birkbeck Institution on Wednesday, showed a true appreciation of the most salient feature of modern life. The country which wishes to rank high, he insisted, must prove its superiority in its work and products. In another column to-day we publish a letter from our Tokyo correspondent, which deals at some length with the Japanese view on this very subject. In that letter, it will be seen, there is quoted a passage from an address by Marquis Iro to his party last month, in which he declared it to be the end of all kinds of education to build up the wealth of a nation. Our correspondent deprecates this very materialistic view of life and goes on to point out the ill effects in Japan of excessive adherence to this ideal. The Marquis's error, it seems to us, lay in speaking of the end of "all kinds of education" as being what he declared it to be. He thereby certainly laid himself open to the charge of ultra-materialism, but we doubt whether the words quoted were what he really intended to say. It must be recognised that there are two kinds of education, one of the individual as such, the other of the man as part of the nation, and it is the latter which renders him a factor in the success of his country. We do not mean to say that a SHAKESPEARE is of no importance to the progress of his nation, but he no more elevates that nation to the front rank than does a minor poet of ordinary merit. One does not require to go deeply into history to be made aware of this. It was commerce, and not culture which made Britain the leading nation in the world. It is through commerce, and not through culture, that the United States and Germany have challenged that position, and that the former country, for instance, hopes to establish itself as the leading World Power. It would be a grave mistake, too, to imagine that Russia expects to dominate her portion of the world by political means and not by commerce. If she is in her infancy as a commercial nation, it is still very evident that she is losing no opportunity of driving out of all parts of Asia where she has the power the trade of her rivals, in order to give her own trade the fullest possible opportunities of growth. Her vehement anxiety to build up Russian industries and extend her commerce are illustrated in almost every move which she makes. If it were not for this, the British and other merchants concerned in Asiatic trade would have small reason for viewing with apprehension the advance of Russia's frontiers. Then in the case of Japan, who is it that can maintain the opinion that her rise in power is due to the possession now of an army and a navy on Western lines or of a Constitution analogous to those of Western countries? Again, does anyone propose that China shall raise herself out of the humiliation which is now hers except by commercial expansion? That her rulers are unaware, through their own blindness, of this fact is what renders the rapid progress of China impossible. Those who rebuke the materialism of such statements and look with dread toward a "bagman's millennium," though we may sympathise with the cry of their outraged aesthetic feelings, we must regard as unscientific and unhistorical. It is useless for them to talk of the divorce of commercial and "humane" education, for the two were never united. It is the former which

makes for the success of the nation which is most imbued with it, and this becomes increasingly so as the commercial man drives out the military despot—a process now nearly completed. The acknowledgment of this fact does not involve the disappearance from the world of the educated man—educated, that is to say, as Mr. BALFOUR rather than Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE would see him. Why should it? All cannot engage in commerce, nor is patriotism, the desire to see one's country in the front rank of nations, the only or even the highest human quality. There is still something left for those who regret materialism to do.

SHANGHAI AND ITS GOVERNMENT.

(Daily Press, 24th January.)

Shanghai appears to have been rather amused by the suggestion made recently by Mr. POULTNEY BIGELOW that the "Model Settlement" should be turned into a republic and allowed to rule itself, unaided from outside, while taking inside its boundaries a certain portion of adjacent Chinese territory. One critic unkindly remarks that this is a very appropriate suggestion for a globe-trotter to make, while others amuse themselves with imagining some of the possible consequences of the adoption of Mr. BIGELOW's scheme. But we can hardly think that the American author voyager meant himself to be taken seriously when he made his proposal at Munich, for he has actually visited Shanghai and cannot but have seen how in so many different ways our Northern neighbour can pride itself on rising superior to the intrigues of an independent state. The Shanghai papers last week commented with satisfaction, and we think reasonably so, on the unanimous election of nine gentlemen to the Municipal Council. As a writer in the *Mercury* points out, some time ago an attempt was made to introduce Western methods of electioneering into Shanghai, but without success. In the case of uncontested elections there may be one of two causes at work; either the honour is not sought after and the public does not care, or else there is a general consensus of opinion as to the suitability of certain persons to fill the vacancies. An abortive Sanitary Board election which once occurred in Hongkong was an example of the former alternative; it seems generally admitted that the Municipal election at Shanghai was an instance of the latter. We hear from time to time of abuses even in Shanghai. There was the friction last year between the Consuls and the Municipality over the question of police court jurisdiction. The Settlement was helpless in the matter of the evacuation of the port by the foreign garrison. But such troubles are very small in comparison with the substantial blessings which Shanghai enjoys through its almost unique position in the world. Of this fact Shanghai residents are well aware, and we should be surprised to hear a single voice raised in the Settlement in favour of Mr. POULTNEY BIGELOW's suggestion. However, as we have intimated, we suspect that the gentleman was jesting, as he appears to do on occasions other than when writing on the ports of the Far East.

The Singapore Municipal Commission is likely to have before it soon a scheme providing that the Commissioners shall be given the discretion of determining not only the manner in which buildings may be erected in Singapore, but also the nature of building to be so erected. There seems to be at Singapore as well as at Hongkong a constant encroachment of Asiatics on the European residential districts.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 21st January.)

Though the currency question continues to excite the utmost interest in so many quarters of the world, including most places of importance in the East, it does not seem as if in Hongkong anyone is at present ready to come forward on behalf of the gold standard. Writing six days ago on this subject we pointed out that there is far from being any universal acceptance here of the view that it is impossible to establish a fixed rate of exchange. On the other hand, there is a very strong recognition of the evils of a fluctuating, yet constantly falling exchange. Since the publication of the report of the Chamber of Commerce committee meeting of the 23rd December, the subject has been much discussed in business circles in the Colony, and it is well known that the general opinion has not been that it is best to shelve it for years to come. But it is unnecessary for us to remark that desultory conversations do not advance matters at all. Nor can we imagine that the supporters of the fixed dollar propose to wait to see the report of the Straits Currency Commission before taking any steps. Procrastination is not a policy which should commend itself to business men in circumstances like the present. It is true that, as we said last week, the question is not one which can be disposed of summarily. But this is all the more reason for commencing work betimes. Even China has before her, as we saw the other day, the idea of a gold standard. Hongkong cannot therefore be contented with simply repeating the arguments of five or six years ago.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 22nd inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Colonel Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. Fung Wa Chun; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

ERECTION OF WATER CLOSETS.

Further correspondence was submitted relative to the erection of sixteen water-closets, eight urinals, and one Chinese latrine at the office block at the angle of Chater Road and Des Vœux Road.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Hon. Dr. CLARK, it was agreed to reply to the applicant that the Board only allows closets in yards on ground floors.

SANITARY MEASURES AGAINST HONGKONG.

The matter of Hongkong being declared an infected port by Batavia, owing to the presence of bubonic plague in the Colony, came on for consideration.

In a minute attached to the papers dealing with the subject the President said—"It seems to me that if the Consul for the Netherlands was informed that only three sporadic cases have occurred during the past three weeks, the necessity for such drastic measures would not be apparent."

The papers were laid on the table.

LIMEWASHING RETURNS.

Out of a total of 2,006 houses in the Eastern district and 2,983 in the Western, 97 and 2,751 houses respectively were limewashed during the fortnight ended Saturday, 17th inst. There were no prosecutions in the former district, but in the latter there were ten, resulting in fines to the amount of \$196.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the Colony for the week ended 27th December, 1932, showed the death-rate per 1,000 per annum to be 15.2, against 23.8 in the previous week and 14.8 during the corresponding week of last year.

THE CONCRETING OF A BASEMENT.

An application was read from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire for exemption from concreting the basement of "Taikoo," the Peak, on the

ground that the basement is of good hard chunan, sufficiently strong to keep out rats, as was evidenced by there being no rat-holes or runs. The applicants also stated that the two residential floors above the basement are of concrete, laid on corrugated iron, and supported by iron beams. It was therefore impossible, they said, for rats or vermin to get into the house, or for sillage and bath-water to get into the basement.

The application was granted, on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Hon. Dr. CLARK.

ANOTHER APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM CONCRETING.

From Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs came an application for exemption from concreting the ground surfaces of six new houses in Robinson Road (Inland Lot 573). In the case of these houses it was stated that there would be no access to the spaces below the kitchens and servants' quarters, as they would be completely bricked in.

Hon. Dr. CLARK moved that the application be granted, provided the spaces were not accessible and that they be ventilated.

This was all the public business.

CROWN PRINCE OF SIAM IN HONGKONG.

H. R. H. the Crown Prince of Siam arrived in Hongkong on the 18th inst. on board the Royal yacht *Maha Chakreri* and was received with a salute from the warships in the anchorage. Nearly all the shipping was decorated for the occasion. His Royal Highness came ashore at half-past ten o'clock and proceeded to Government House under an escort of police headed by Sergeant Ritchie. H. R. H. will be the guest of the Governor during his stay of four days, and will visit the various places of interest in which the Colony and its neighbourhood abound. The Crown Prince is an interesting personality. He is returning home after studying in England since 1893. There he passed through the Royal Military College at Sandhurst with honour. On the way back to his country he travelled by way of the United States and journeyed from Vancouver to Yokohama on the s.s. *Empress of China*. From Japan he has come down in the *Maha Chakreri*.

His Royal Highness is a handsome, well-balanced, thoughtful young man, an excellent English scholar and he has a pretty manner in speaking. He was born in 1831 and was proclaimed heir to the throne in 1895. After pursuing, under private tutors at home, the usual elementary studies, he went to England in 1893, and, after studying privately there, he entered the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. After his course at Sandhurst, he was attached for a year to the Durham Light Infantry. He then became a student at Christ Church, Oxford, but not being a regular matriculant he was not admitted to a degree. Here again he distinguished himself as a close student, especially of history, in which branch he prosecuted original investigations and wrote a treatise on *The War of the Polish Succession*, of such value that the University authorities saw fit to publish the work. When he left Oxford, he took up the study of law, making a specialty of international law, and perfected himself in French, which he now speaks fluently. He has spent his vacations visiting systematically the other countries of Europe and Egypt for recreation and observation, noticing especially their governmental administration and institutions, and seeking information that would better prepare him for his kingly duties when he shall be called upon for their discharge. The result of the years spent in England during the formative period of his character cannot help but have an effect upon the future of Siam. The reforms which his father has been pleased to introduce in the government of his country may be expected under his son to be still further extended, and Siam may be expected to become one of the most advanced of Oriental nations.

H. R. H. the Crown Prince of Siam spent a day's sight-seeing on the 19th inst. in Hongkong, accompanied by H. E. the Governor and party. Among the places visited were the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Tung Wah Hospital, the Queen's College and the Docks. In the

evening there was a dance at Government House.

About 8.30 on the 22nd inst. the Siamese Royal yacht *Maha Chakreri*, with H. R. H. the Crown Prince of Siam on board, left for Bangkok. As she steamed out of the harbour, accompanied by several steam-launches, a salute was fired by the warships in the anchorage.

HONGKONG DIOCESAN CHORAL FESTIVAL.

Last year saw the inauguration of a Diocesan Choral Festival in Hongkong: an innovation which was hailed with pleasure by all lovers of music here and which met with such success that the underlying idea of having a festival annually was regarded as having been pretty well established on a solid basis. It was with a most laudable purpose that the movement was set on foot. Its promoters had in view the improvement of the diocesan choirs and the encouragement of the cultivation of classical music in the Colony generally. Such motive was bound to command support. This year, however, the chorus was much smaller than last for several reasons—it being representative of two choirs and not comprising by any means the full membership of either; the soloists were less, the soprano part being dependent entirely on one lady, who, however, accomplished all her work most ably; there was also no orchestra on this occasion. There is, however, no need to apologise for the quality of the music rendered, as it was apparent that all present knew their parts, were in good voice, and carefully watched the baton of the conductor. The chorus might have been stronger, but the reason for any want of enthusiasm in regard to numbers is perhaps to be found in the position of affairs in general in the Cathedral as unfortunately at present prevail. The attendance also showed this: last year many of the congregation were unable to secure seats and the collection was over \$100; this year the church was not full, the collection being \$76.24. Last year the work undertaken was *The Holy City*, an ambitious essay for the first festival but one which was more than justified in the result. On the present occasion the programme undertaken was of an entirely different kind and perhaps less attractive to the general public, though a much better class of music. The principal item was Mendelssohn's cantata *Lauda Sion*, a fine piece containing beautiful passages, which is a favourite at home but has never, we think, been heard before in Hongkong; and there were also given a chorus of Sullivan's and a soprano solo and chorus by the former composer. The festival took place in St. John's Cathedral on the 20th inst., and the choir consisted of the St. John's choir and a few members of St. Peter's, under the conductorship of Mr. A. G. Ward.

The service opened with an organ voluntary, in A flat (Bartolomeo), admirably executed by Mr. G. Grimble. Following upon this the service proper began with the processional hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers," sung to Sullivan's inspiring setting.

After prayers and responses (Tallis) the festival music was entered upon. The first piece was a chorus from *The Golden Legend* by Sullivan, "O Gladsome Light," an evening hymn with soft, harmonious music, which the choir rendered with adequate expression, keeping well with the conductor. Part II consisted of Mendelssohn's soprano solo and chorus, "Hear My Prayer." This well-known piece got a grand rendition. That Mrs. Mudie took the solo parts was a sufficient guarantee of their being appropriately and tastefully rendered. "Hear My Prayer" opens with a solo with plaintive, supplicating diction and music in consonance with it. Mrs. Mudie has seldom been heard to better advantage than in this; she gave fine sympathetic expression to the spirit of the music and sang faultlessly. Following upon the opening solo were a solo and chorus, the chorus repeating the soloist's phrases; this is of a tragic description and gives unlimited scope for robust expression. The chorus were well up in their work and the leads were nicely taken up by the respective parts; indeed, the whole thing was given with fine effect. The soprano solo and solo with chorus accompaniment with which the piece closes were sung with

equal excellence. At this stage a collection was taken, during the singing of the hymn "O God our help in ages past," Mr. Grimble playing a specially written accompaniment. Then the choir entered upon the principal item of the programme, Mendelssohn's cantata *Lauda Sion*, a work of which the excellence is too well known to need comment upon it here. It opens with a fine swinging chorus "Praise Jehovah," which was well sung, and consists of choruses, soprano solos, a quartet, and quartets and choruses. Mrs. Mudie, after singing the solos in "Hear My Prayer," undertook the solo work here, besides taking part in the choruses, and great credit is due to her for the arduous part she performed in this connection. All her solos were perfectly sung and her rendition of "Lord, at all times" was beautiful. A feature of the cantata was the quartet "Ye who from his ways have turned," sung by Mrs. Mudie, Miss Laykum, Mr. G. W. Coster and Mr. W. J. Terrill; the blending of the voices was capital. The choruses without exception left nothing to be desired, and were a credit to Mr. Ward for his conductorship and painstaking preparation of the choir as well as to the choir themselves. The festival ended with the benediction, to which Stainer's "Seven-fold Amen" was sung. Mr. Grimble, who is deserving of special commendation for his excellent playing of the festival music, gave as a concluding voluntary the "War-March of the Priests" from Mendelssohn's *Athalie*. We must not omit to mention that no little of the success which has attended this and also the previous festival was due to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Alfred Cunningham, whose energy was untiring and his enthusiasm contagious.

The chorus was as follows:—Messdames J. S. Hagen, Quann, A. Sath, H. L. Stringer, H. P. Tooker; Misses G. Hance, R. Laykum, M. Sath, E. Shaw; Messrs. H. Bell, G. W. Coster, A. Cunningham, E. C. Emmett, J. Hays, H. H. Hughes, F. Jenkins, A. May, J. S. Macnab, H. J. Moorhouse, G. Ruby, H. L. Stringer, W. J. Terrill; Masters F. Cunningham, A. T. Godfree, W. Hagen, A. J. J. Martin, R. A. Power, R. Presley, B. A. Shortman, H. V. Shortman, F. G. Tyler, and H. H. Tyler.

The following clergy were present:—Venerable Archdeacon Banister, Rev. J. H. Francis, Rev. E. H. Good, R.N., Rev. C. Moore, R.N., Rev. H. E. Roberts, R.N., Rev. H. R. Talbot, Rev. T. Wright, Rev. W. J. Southam, and Rev. F. T. Johnson, chaplain of St. John's.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE PRIZE-GIVING.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Queen's College took place on the 22nd inst. in the hall of the College in presence of a large company of ladies and gentlemen. The Hon. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary and Chairman of the Government Body, presided, and was supported by Rev. Dr. Geo. H. Bateson Wright, headmaster. Among those present were Lady Goodman, Mrs. May, Mrs. Bateson Wright, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Portuguese Consul-General Sr. A. G. Romano, Rev. Archdeacon Banister, Rev. W. Southam, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Rev. G. Bunbury, Professor Sharp, Lt. Ki to, R. E. (one of the examiners), Mr. E. A. Irving (Inspector of Schools), Messrs. G. Piercy and H. Sykes (Diocesan School), and the following members of the staff: Messrs. A. J. May, E. Ralphs, A. W. Grant, B. Tanner, R. Seymour A. Bird, and A. W. Crook.

The HEADMASTER read the annual report, which was as follows:—

Queen's College, 19th January, 1903.
Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,

Colonial Secretary

SIR,—I have the honour to present the annual report on Queen's College for the year 1902.

2. The total number on the roll was 1,434, a slightly lower figure than in the previous year. This reduction is one of many indications of considerable improvement in attendance; for with fewer boys and with seven school-days less there is actually an increase of 15,362 attendances in the course of the year. Again, the number on roll exceeded 1,000 in nine months and 1,100 in four; while the average daily attendance is 990. When it is remembered that in the summer, plague, cholera, and dengue

fever were prevalent, it must be admitted that steady attendance under these conditions is highly commendable.

3. The fees were short of \$30,000 by only \$121. The cost of the College is enhanced by the fact that the fees of free scholars are not credited to this Department, though \$216 is the annual cost of educating student interpreters for the Registrar-General's Department, and \$180 for the charitable education of children of public servants, which does not include the four free scholarships granted annually to encourage education in the Government District Schools of Saiyingpun, Wanchai, &c. It appears to me that this last is the only item fairly chargeable to education; the cost of the other two items should, if possible, be defrayed elsewhere as a matter of account.

4. It is just five years since the services of Mr. J. W. Jones were first loaned to the Supreme Court for twelve months. It was, therefore, quite as much a matter of congratulation to the College as to Mr. Jones, when in October last the news of his permanent transfer to be Deputy Registrar as from 7th June, 1901 reached the Colony. No surprise can be excited at the decision of the Secretary of State that in the future educational officers are not to hold acting appointments in other departments. I venture, however, to express a hope that this does not mean an absolute negation of the possibility of permanent transfer elsewhere. The experience of the Government in the cases of Messrs. Arthur, Jones, and Woodcock would appear to justify the conclusion that assistant masters are capable of performing excellent service elsewhere; and I maintain that the effect of such transfer on Queen's College is a salutary one; there being the stimulus to exertion with a view to the recognition of the Government and the infusion of new blood into the English staff from time to time.

5. Once again we have at last ten English masters. Mr. Tanner has been promoted to the senior grade. To fill the three vacancies amongst the Junior Assistant Masters, Mr. Bird was appointed in October, Mr. Crook arrived a few days ago, and Mr. Hollis is shortly expected. In addition to being University men of marked careers (Oxford and Dublin respectively), Messrs. Bird and Crook have had the advantage of practical experience as schoolmasters, and will doubtless prove valuable acquisitions. Mr. Dealy, last May, went on leave for the second time in nineteen years' service.

6. The report of the Education Committee recommends the appointment of an eleventh English master, which appears necessary, there being now 200 more boys daily receiving instruction than when ten English masters were deemed necessary.

7. Mr. James Cheong, graduate of Melbourne University, who for more than three years did excellent and successful work as acting English assistant master, resigned at the end of August last, on proceeding to Oxford. In April, Mr. Wong Ming, 3rd Chinese assistant, was loaned to the Magistracy for twelve months. In October, Mr. Un Kam Wa, 4th Chinese Assistant, an useful and energetic master, resigned to act as interpreter and translator to a local legal firm. The restitution of the full complement on the English staff will terminate the excessive strain thrown, during the last few years, on the Chinese staff by temporary promotions and appointments: I cannot, however, withhold from these young men, especially the acting pupil teachers, the well-deserved meed of praise for their cheerful energy in the discharge of their difficult duties.

8. The desire of the Government to promote and encourage greater attention to the study of Chinese amongst natives and English alike has not been without its effect on this College. Several Chinese assistants formed themselves into a class, and at their own cost engaged a native teacher, chiefly for improvement in style. Mr. Bird has begun the study of Chinese. Though I do not think that the knowledge of Chinese, written and spoken, should, as formerly, be obligatory on all masters, there can be no doubt that even a small acquaintance with the language of the boys is desirable, to maintain the proper efficiency and discipline of the College.

9. Messrs. Ralphs, Grant, and Tanner deserve warm congratulations upon the excellent results at the Oxford Local Examinations held last

July. Twenty certificates were obtained by Queen's College boys; 3 senior, 6 junior, and 11 preliminary. The mark "G," next in order in distinction, was obtained no less than 16 times, chiefly in arithmetic and history. I am glad to note that Chinese boys are again coming to the fore, both in position and number of passes.

10. The good results at the half-yearly examination (a practice instituted by myself in 1892) led me to anticipate satisfactory improvement at the close of the year, and I feel justified in saying that I have not been disappointed.

11. Messrs. Ross and Kitto, appointed independent examiners of the Upper School, make a separate report. I would beg leave, on behalf of masters and boys, to express our sense of the kindness and consideration shown by the examiners.

12. The examination of the Lower and Preparatory Schools was conducted by myself under Standing Orders from the Governing Body. The whole tone of the examination is higher than that of the previous year, the improvement being chiefly attributable to greater regularity in attendance as reported above. With the exception of the grammar paper in the three sections of Class IV, there was absolutely none of the provoking practice of inserting silly or irrelevant information. No further comment upon the summary below is needed than the statement that the Lower School has distinguished itself by marked general improvement; and the Preparatory School, taught by acting pupil teachers under the charge of a senior pupil teacher, has maintained its usual high level.

	Boys examined	Passed
Lower School ..	422	383 or 92 %
Preparatory School...	257	245 " 95 "
Total	679	633 " 93 "

13. Observations on individual subjects:—

Reading.—Though few failures occurred, it was rare to be able to assign marks higher than 80 per cent. I make a point of treating most severely the mispronunciation of common words.

Conversation.—As usual, the percentage of passes is low. I applied a slightly higher standard of intelligence.

Dictation.—Very good, especially the writing.

Arithmetic.—A very marked improvement on the results of recent years. A large number of boys successfully solved the usual sort of problems. The work was neat and less crowded into out-of-the-way corners.

Grammar.—Very satisfactory, with the exception of one class. The masters of the three sections of Class IV admitted the questions to be fair, if not actually easy; yet the fact remains that the great bulk of the boys failed to get 50 per cent. marks. Knowing from personal observation that these masters taught this subject very carefully, I can only conclude that they had been paying more particular attention to other details.

Geography.—Good. I expected that more boys would have been acquainted in Class IV with the draining operations of the Emperor in, and in Class V with the diurnal and annual motions of the earth.

Map-drawing from Memory.—Excellent. The maps of Hongkong, Africa, and the 12 Provinces of China, that obtained over 80 per cent. marks, were wonderful specimens of handiwork and feats of memory.

Composition.—Very good indeed. The employment of suitable phrases, not dictated by me, was very successful and praiseworthy.

Chinese to English.—Satisfactory. More boys made laudable attempts to translate the unseen piece that formed the fifth question in each paper.

English to Chinese.—This subject was, as usual, marked by the second master (Mr. A. J. May), who found himself able to award a very large proportion of high marks.

14. I do not know who is responsible for the extraordinary statement in the Colonial Office List that several valuable Government scholarships are attached to Queen's College. The following is a complete list of the scholarships, all locally promoted and maintained without any assistance from the Government:—Morrison Senior and Junior Scholarships, each tenable for three years; Stewart Scholarship for one year; Belilios Senior and Junior Scholarships, each tenable for two years.

15. The non-Chinese boys, past and present, assisted by the friends of the late Mr. W. Machell, have raised a small sum to endow a special prize in memory of his devoted zeal in

behalf of the interests of the Senior non-Chinese Class. In spite of the handsome allowances for prizes from the Government, we should be poorly off to provide recognition for our sixty scholars deserving of distinction, were it not for the generous beneficence of the public. The following is a list of the present contributors:—The Consul-General for Portugal, Messrs. Arculli and Dorabjee Nowrojee, Messrs. Chan Heison, Chan Pakcheung, Fung Wa Chun, Ho Fook, Ho Kom-tong, Ho Tung, Ip Shiu Kam, Ko Yik Kun, Lau Chak Min, Leung Yau-po, Lo Cheung Shin, Lo Tat, Luk King-fo, Mok Man cheung, Ng Kwok-ching, Sin Tak-fan, Tsoi Lap-toy, U Hang Kam, Wong Kam-fuk, Yung Hing-pong, Yung Shin-po, the Directors of the Tung Wa Hospital, and others.

16. The school magazine *Yellow Dragon*, the Reading, Cricket and Football Clubs, continue to flourish. A novelty in 1902 was a boys' pair-oared race introduced into the Regatta by the kindness of the Victoria and Hongkong Rowing Clubs. Our crew, consisting of the brothers Bunje, coxswain Sayer, were coached by Mr. Bird, and won a well-contested race.

17. For the gymnasium, first mooted three years ago by Hon. J. Stewart Lockhart and mentioned in my last annual report, we have to wait indefinitely. The appliances to be used temporarily in the basement of the College at a cost of about \$40, we may expect to get in the year 1904.

18. The usual tables of statistics are attached. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

GEO. H. BATHSON WRIGHT,
D.D. (OXON.),
Head Master.

After reading the report the HEADMASTER went on to say he must offer a word of apology for inviting the company to a building in the untimely condition in which the College was (the structure being under repair). His first impulse had been to make the function perfectly private and to hand over the prizes himself; but as that would have been to rob the prizewinners and their parents of much of the enjoyment resulting from publicity and to deprive them all of the benefit of the annual address, he ventured to ignore the somewhat chaotic conditions produced by repairs to the roof. His Excellency the Governor would not have been deterred by the state of the hall from coming, but other important engagements prevented his being present. Though that was naturally a disappointment they desired to express a very hearty welcome to Mr. May. (Applause.) Not only did Mr. May's high position as Colonial Secretary and Chairman of the Governing Body render him specially fitted to preside on that occasion, but his long and successful career in the Colony almost entitled him to look upon it as a claim. Before his recent popular promotion, he had as Assistant and Acting Colonial Secretary been intimately acquainted with the history both of that College and of education in the Colony generally. Few men too had a better knowledge of the character of the Chinese race and of the difficulties and beauty of the Chinese language and literature. (Applause.) With these few words he would ask Mr. May to distribute the prizes and afterwards favour them with an address. (Applause.)

After the ceremony of presenting the prizes, Hon. F. H. MAY, who was received with applause, said that referring first to the last part of Dr. Wright's remarks, he might say at once that it had afforded him a great deal of pleasure to have had the privilege of coming there to present the prizes. He might add that he did not think there was any necessity on Dr. Wright's part to make any excuses on account of the condition of the hall. From recent experience in connection with buildings in Hongkong, he for one, and he was sure many of the others present, felt much happier under a roof which they could see was well supported than under one which might be under the least taint of suspicion. (Applause and laughter.) The report which Dr. Wright had been good enough to read, taken in conjunction with the report of the independent examiners which he had had the privilege of seeing, was, he thought, extremely good. (Applause.) Perhaps the most satisfactory feature in Dr. Wright's report was the statement that the attendances had been much better than in the previous year; that was to say, the boys had been more regular in their

attendance. In every institution in which Chinese were educated that he had had any connection with one great stumbling-block to progress had been the irregular attendance of the pupils. In addition to the ordinary regular holidays, they absented themselves for feasts, festivals, marriages, birthdays, and all these extraordinarily recurrent illnesses and often deaths of near relatives. (Laughter and applause.) The result of the better and more regular attendance was shown from Dr. Wright's report, for he said that the quality of the work shown by the Lower School had been a marked improvement on that shown during the previous year. The report of the independent examiners was distinctly good, and they stated that the boys at the head of the School had shown some really excellent work. They remarked that when it was reflected that the work done by the Chinese boys was done in English, was to them a foreign language, the result was extremely satisfactory. (Applause.) But they added that it was to be regretted that boys who could do so well in English should, with one or two exceptions, be so weak in the knowledge of their own written language. Dr. Wright had referred to the Commission which enquired last year into education generally in this Colony, and he had no doubt Dr. Wright would like him to divulge some State secrets that morning and tell him how far the recommendations of the Commission affecting the College would be carried out. Well, he was afraid he was not in a position to do so, but there was one thing he could tell them, and that was that the classes for teaching the Chinese language were to be restored in that College. (Applause.) Personally he would be very glad if such a change was made. He had considerable experience, during his official career in Hongkong, of clerks and interpreters in the Government service, and a great many of them were drawn from that College, and although some of the best clerks in the Government service were old pupils in the Victoria College, now Queen's College, still he might state as a general fact that their weak point as a rule was the want of knowledge of their own written language; and he hoped that the change which he had just alluded to might bring about an improvement in that direction. (Applause.) Having said that much about the College, he would like to say a few words to the boys. He remembered in the year 1880, which was a very severe winter in Ireland, when all the country was frozen and the roads were covered with ice, that he was out shooting one day and turned into one of the little national schools to see how they were getting on there, and just as he entered he heard the master upbraiding a small boy for being so very late. And he said: "How is this, Dennis, that you are late again?" "Well, sir," said the boy, "the roads were that slippery that every step I took in advance I slipped back two." "How, then," said the master, "did you manage to arrive at the school at all?" "Oh," said Dennis, with native quick wit, "I managed it by turning my back on the school." (Laughter.) Now, curiously enough in the year 1895—fifteen years afterwards—he was attached for a time during his leave at home to the Royal Irish Constabulary, and he met there this very same boy, grown up and going in for his sergeant's examination in that police force. He recognised the man and said, "Well, Dennis, are you as fond of sliding as ever?" And Dennis replied, "Your honour, I often regret the time I wasted on sliding; if I had attended more to my books I would not have difficulty now in passing the examinations in this police force." Now, the boys in Queen's College who were British subjects owed a great debt to the British Empire—(applause)—and the boys there who were Chinese subjects owed a debt to the Colony and to the Empire of which it formed a part, but they owed an even greater debt to the neighbouring Chinese Empire, the place of their birth. (Applause.) They could, all of them, if they attended to their work and cultivated habits of industry and conscientious work—which were just as easy to cultivate as habits of idleness and carelessness—become useful and influential citizens of whatever Empire they elected to serve, because in the British Empire as in the neighbouring Chinese Empire, there was no

position under that of the Sovereign to which a man by his own individual exertions might not attain. (Applause.) An ancient Roman said that it was a glorious thing to die for one's country. He would ask them to believe that it was an equally glorious thing to live and work for one's country day by day and year by year. (Applause.) In conclusion he would congratulate Dr. Wright and the masters and pupil teachers who had worked under him on the good results of their labours during the year under review; and he would wish all the boys a very happy holiday. (Applause.)

The HEADMASTER said he had to thank Mr. May very much for his kind and instructive address to the boys. The statement they had heard that they were to have the Chinese classes restored would be very welcome to the masters and he should think to a large number of the boys; certainly to the boys' parents. He trusted the boys would carry away some recollection of the story of the Irish boy who went to school by turning his back upon it and would profit next term by the recollection that he afterwards found out that he had better have gone with his face towards it. Mr. May had pointed out very clearly the difficulty they had to deal with under Chinese customs, and he wished that some of the Chinese parents would remember that it was a serious loss to the School when the boys were taken away to a distant cousin's wedding and various feasts, dedications of new houses, and so forth, that it was hardly necessary to interrupt a school career for. He had only now to ask Mr. May to intimate that the holidays would conclude on Saturday, the 21st February.

Hon. Mr. MAY having made this intimation. The proceedings were brought to a close by the boys giving three cheers for the Hon. Mr. May, for the donors of prizes, and for the Headmaster.

Appended is the prize-list for 1902-1903.

OXFORD LOCAL, 1902—Senior: I A—Banje, E. T. H.; AA—Silas, M. D.; AA—Hung Kwok-leung; Junior: Tam Wing-kwong; Banje, C.; Banje, H.; Ho Yan-sik; Li Ho-ching; Tse Tsak-kai.

PRELIMINARY—Ahwee, A.; Hung In-chi; Lee, W. H.; Pang Kwok-sui; Alongo, D.; Curreen, C. V.; Watling, H.; Ford, W. F.; Alarakia, C.; In Hung-tok.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

MORRISON.—Senior: non-Chinese, Banje, E. T. H.; Chinese, Ho Yan-sik; Junior: IV A—Chan King-leuk.

STEWART.—I A—Li Ho-ching.

BELLIO.—Senior: N. I—Banje, C.; Junior: III A—Lui In-cheung.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

TRANSLATION.—E to C: I A—1 Li Ho-ching; II A—2 Lo Kam-chak; C to E: I A—1 Li Ho-ching; 2 Tse Tsak-kai.

HISTORY.—I A—Hung Kwok-leung; I B—Cheung King-shang; N 1—Banje, H.; N 2—Mooney, W.; II A—Fung Pak-liu; II B—Lun Kai-in; N 3—Markar, C. G.; III A—Lui In-cheung; III B—Un-kwong; III C—Chu Po-lam.

COMPOSITION.—I A—Ho Yan-sik; N 1—Banje, C.; N 2—Dixon, K.; II A—Chan Tak-fai; II B—Chan Pak-kong; N 3—Mooney, R.; N 4—White, H.; III A—Cheung Tung-chang; III B—Wan Hang-un; III C—Chu Po-lam.

MATHEMATICAL PRIZE.—I A—Hung Kwok-leung.

MACHELL MEMORIAL.—N 1—Banje, C.

CLASS PRIZES.

I A—1 Ho Yan-sik (Morrison); 2 Hung Kwok-leung (Mathematical); 3 Li Ho-ching (Stewart scholar); 4 Chan Sz-yui.

I B—1 Cheung King-shang.

N 1—1 Banje, H.; 2 Banje, C.; 3 Delbasah, A. K.; Alarakia, U.

N 2—1 Ahwee, A.; 2 Mooney, W.; Judah, J. II A—1 Lai Chiu-kun; 2 Fung Pak-liu; 3 Tong Shuk-fan.

II B—1 Wong Wai-ting; 2 Chan Pak-kong; 3 Chan Shiu-lun.

N 3—1 Galuzzi, U.; 2 Galuzzi, R.; Tetzel, C. N 4—1 Yamasaki, M.; 2 Suffaid, A. M.; Arculli, A.

III A—1 Lui In-cheung (Bellio, Jun.); 2 Wong Man-yau; 3 Lo Ping-ü.

III B—1 Un Kwong; 2 Lau Cheuk-wing. III C—1 Chu Po-lam; 2 Leung Shi-kau.

IV A—1 Chan King-leuk (Mor. Jun.); 2 Chan King-kwong; 3 Luk I-yau.

IV B—1 Cheng Kwan; 2 Won Hoi-Man.

IV C—1 Lo Tsik-kü; 2 Chau Kam-tung.

V A—1 Mak Shiu-yik; 2 Wong Tin-fong.

V B—1 Fung Cheung; 2 Lam Kwok-san.

V C—1 Lo Kam-chung; 2 Pang Tseung-ling.

VI A—1 Un Ng-tsung; 2 Kwok Tsan-kong; Livesay, H.

VI B—1 Wong Wai-sham; 2 Yau Wan.

VI C—1 Lam Ming-chung; 2 Wong Ping-chin.

VII A—1 Leung Wing; 2 Chung Kam-tong; Hyndman, H.

VII B—1 Wong Lam-cho; 2 U Yuk-shang.

VII C—1 Chü Kong-on; 2 Chan Un-chi.

VII D—1 Ng Fung-ying; 2 Chan-kwan.

VIII A—1 Yeung Chuk-ping; 2 Li Lun-kwai.

VIII B—1 Lui Tung; 2 Li Ting-so.

VIII C—1 Fung Kam-tong; 2 Ho Wing-chui.

THE S.S. "SAN CHEUNG."

TRIAL TRIP.

On Friday afternoon, the 16th inst., the s.s. *San Cheung*, the new steamer designed for the Hongkong-Canton trade, made her trial trip. The vessel was gaily decorated with flags, and each saloon contained tables groaning under the weight of good things prepared for the several hundred visitors who were courteously invited on board for the trip. Among those present were: Mesdames Richards, Hinds, Jones, Hughes, A. Cunningham, H. F. Carmichael, and A. Chapman; Misses Maker and Seibert; Captains Young, Hallstrom, and Robinson; Messrs. Li Wai Tong (chairman of the Cheung On S.S. Company), Carmichael (marine architect and supervisor), Kwok Yik Ting (secretary), Mumford (Lloyd's), Leung Tsung, Yung, Chung Chun Yuen, Leung Oi Chuh, Kwong Keng Tong, Chü Chung Hin, and Li Tsz Ming (directors), Jean Troux, Davies, Ralphs, Patterson, Whittick, Terrett, Sit Ming Chok, A. Cunningham, P. Barbellion, C. Meurer, Swaby, Chau King Ting, Chau Shun Shan, and Major Chapman. There were 200 Chinese guests. The officers of the ship were: Capt. Murphy, Mr. C. H. Clarke (chief engineer), and Mr. Angus (chief officer).

The *San Cheung* made an excellent trip and came through her trial with glowing colours, proceeding as far as Chek Wan Island, a distance of twenty miles from Hongkong. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. When darkness set in the principal guests sat down to supper in the first-class saloon. This compartment was very attractive in its new paint and gilt and its pretty coloured and designed electric lamps.

After supper the healths of the King, and of the Emperor of China, proposed by Mr. Li Wei Tong (the Chairman) and Major Chapman respectively, were enthusiastically drunk. Mr. Cunningham proposed the health of the Cheung On Steamship Co., and congratulated them on their enterprise, and on their possessing such a large and well built steamer. Mr. Ralphs replied on behalf of the Chairman. The Secretary of the Company, Mr. Kwok Yik Ting, proposed the health of "The Builders" (Kwong Fuk Cheong Shipbuilders and the Ting Hing Engineers) and in doing so said the ship was built for the Hongkong-Canton trade, and was capable of carrying 1,100 passengers. She was the largest vessel yet built by Chinese, and with the great increase of Hongkong-Canton trade, and the opening of treaty ports in Kwangtung, was a needed and timely addition to the river fleet. Mr. Carmichael suitably responded and toasted Mr. Kwok Yik Ting. Mr. Mumford toasted the ladies, and Dr. Davies ably replied. Major Chapman proposed "The Press" and Mr. A. Cunningham replied.

The *San Cheung* is a vessel of 951 tons, 200 ft. long, 33 ft. beam, and 10 ft. moulded depth. She has three decks, viz., steerage, saloon, and boat, the latter forming a splendid promenade with fittings for awnings. Her cylinders are 14 by 28 feet, boilers 9 by 10 feet, and she is fitted with twin screws. The hull is of wood, copper sheathed. In the saloon, all cabins are fitted with hot and cold water, laid on by pipes, and all things are conducive to the comfort of passengers. The vessel is lighted throughout by electricity, and, on her speed trial, over the

measured mile, attained a speed of no less than 12½ knots. She is efficiently provided with fire hoses, life-boats, and rafts.

When the new river steamer *San Cheung* left her wharf on the 17th inst. and steamed out of the harbour, conjecture doubtless was rife as to where her destination was, for though the vessel's run was known to be between this port and the neighbouring one of Canton, it is also common knowledge that the latter is closed to river steamers on Sundays. Canton, however, was just the place the *San Cheung* was heading for, the Cheung On Steamship Company, her owners, having obtained permission for the vessel to enter Canton on Sunday morning; and when the *San Cheung*, gay with bunting, dropped anchor off the Shameen at six a.m. on Sunday she began her career by establishing what is claimed to be a precedent, so far as river steamers are concerned, for against these is the Sunday embargo of the Canton Customs authorities directed. Attended at the outset by such a favourable circumstance, it was only fitting that the whole trial trip, from beginning to end, should prove most successful and enjoyable. The performance of the *San Cheung* realised the wishes of her owners, and the attention lavished upon the guests on board ensured the comfort of everyone. The party on board when the ship cleared from Hongkong included Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael, Major and Mrs. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Hinds, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Miss Siebert, and Messrs. Trevoux, Richards, Robinson, Buchanan, Davies, Sit Ning Cook, and Kwok Yik Ting (secretary of the Cheung On Steamship Company). At Canton, where a dinner was given on board, this number was augmented considerably by the general response given to the invitations sent out by M. Trevoux on behalf of the owners, and amongst those present were many French and Chinese notabilities, including M. Guilleu, Consul of France at Canton. No speeches were made or toasts given, but wishes, none the less sincere for their not being clothed in the garb of formality, were expressed on all sides for the success of the *San Cheung* and her owners. At an earlier stage in the trip Mr. Carmichael, who supervised the erection of the steamer's machinery, proposed the health of Mr. Kwok Yik Ting, the Cheung On Company's secretary, who responded suitably; and on the run home Major Chapman toasted success to the *San Cheung*, coupling with it the name of Mr. Kwok Yik Ting, who again replied. The return journey was accomplished in a few minutes over seven hours, the *San Cheung*, a description of which has already been published, leaving Canton at 5 p.m. on the 17th inst. and being breast of her wharf here at 12.3 a.m. on the 20th inst.

THE NANKING BUND COLLAPSE.

The *N. Daily News* of the 14th inst. gives the following account of the above disaster:—
The *San Cheung* was alongside the hulk belonging to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire at Hsichuan, the port of Nanking, a terrible catastrophe occurred. The premises in question had a length of 230 feet, and the land was well bounded, with a large godown on it. Suddenly, and without any warning, the whole frontage, with the godown on it, seem to give a shake, and then slipped bodily into the Yangtze, carrying with it the jetty and bridges connecting with the hulk. The frontage was crowded at the time with coolies and hotel runners and others, the *Poyang* having brought a large cargo and many passengers, and the loss of life must have been very large; how extensive will probably never be known, but twenty-two corpses were counted floating about the chains shortly afterwards. The landslip, for such it was, the river having evidently undermined the whole piece of ground, was followed by a huge wave, swamping everything in the vicinity, and the river was full of overturned sampans. The godown was full of valuable cargo, and there was practically no salvage; there is now a bay where the bund was, with fifteen to fifty feet of water in it. Other bundings and houses in the vicinity seem not unlikely to follow Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's property.

The same journal of the 17th inst. says:—
Further particulars were brought to Shanghai on the 21st inst. by passengers just arrived from Nanking, of the great disaster which swept away Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's godowns and bunding on Monday, and which precipitated an unknown number of Chinese into a watery grave. So far as can be ascertained no foreign lives were lost: the Customs official, who had gone out to meet the *Poyang*, being fortunately on the pontoon at the time. The catastrophe happened quite suddenly and without warning, and instead of sliding down into the water from the shore, as first accounts led us to suppose, the whole semi-circle of land, wharves and everything on it, seems to have sunk in one mass rapidly downward, the part furthest inland going first. Seeing that the depth of water is 50 feet in the great bay which occupies the spot where the wharf stood, and the land beyond is 120 feet above high-water level, the land must have been undermined to a depth of quite 140 feet. The Custom-house which stood adjacent has since been abandoned as unsafe, and a long front of Chinese bunding on the other side shows ominous signs of cracking. It is, in fact, impossible to say how much further inroad the water may yet make. The Chinese have already discovered a picturesque explanation of the disaster: according to native accounts a great turtle struck the place suddenly. There is, as might be expected, great excitement among the Chinese population, who recognise in the occurrence something much more than a great and deplorable disaster, to be accounted for by natural causes.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 14th January.

WARSHIPS IN THE HARBOUR.

Macao has been much better patronised in the matter of warships during the last few months than was the case a year or two ago, and it is now the exception and not the rule to see a week pass without the arrival of one or more gunboats. The French gunboat *Argus* (Captain Crespin) arrived last week and left two or three days ago, while the *Moorhen* (Capt. Webster) arrived on Friday last and is still lying at her anchorage near the *Diu*. The *Diu* herself is still with us, and, it is to be hoped, will remain at her post for many a month to come.

SOCIAL LIFE IN MACAO.

The centre of attraction in this winter season is Government House, where the Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening "At Homes" have attracted a large number of guests. In spite of the inclemency of the weather the officers of the *Diu* still continue their Saturday afternoon garden parties in the *Floia*, which are always much appreciated.

AMUSEMENTS.

The "Great Zamboni" visited Macao on Saturday and Sunday last and gave performances in the Club Union and theatre before good houses; his efforts as a ventriloquist and magician extraordinary were warmly appreciated and applauded by an enthusiastic audience.

The band, which originally played on Thursday and Sunday evenings, is now playing in the Praya Gardens on Sunday afternoons, and the change of hour, considering the wintry weather, is most desirable.

In spite, however, of the attractions of Zamboni and the band, we feel that there is something badly wanting in the dramatic and musical line, and considering the great success which attended Mrs. Morhouse's concert of a few weeks ago, we cannot help expressing the hope that we may have the privilege and pleasure of hearing a similar entertainment in the not very distant future.

VISITORS.

The continuous rains and arctic temperatures have had a somewhat deterrent effect upon visitors, and recently the hotels have not suffered from overcrowding. In spite of its many natural attractions, Macao is no less a resort in bad weather than any other seaside resort, and residents, visitors, and hotel-proprietors alike long for a recurrence of the glorious weather and sunny skies which marked the whole of last winter.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 13th January.

THE LOCAL LEKIN QUESTION.

General Wong, who undertook last year to collect *lekin* locally, has not succeeded in the scheme he had in view. Previously to his coming here, the native merchants, to avoid being burdened with any excessive *lekin* tax, the levy of which would entail so much red-tape and "squabble," decided to remit, through the representative guild, a sum of \$50,000 as an annual contribution to the *lekin* for the provincial Government at Canton. General Wong, however, thought that a greater amount than \$50,000 could be collected here, and accordingly made proposals to the Canton authorities to double the contribution of the local native merchants. Finding all opposition useless, the latter body acquiesced in the heavy exaction demanded of them. Not yet satisfied, Wong intends now to raise the *lekin* to \$150,000 after the end of the current Chinese year. That part, if not a great deal, of the money collected finds its way into Wong's pockets is not to be gainsaid by anyone who knows his methods of business. His plans of suddenly increasing the *lekin* exorbitantly have met with strong opposition from the leading native merchants, who have appealed for assistance to the Taotai. The latter, having regard to the flourishing trade of this port and the injury that would be dealt to it by excessive taxation, has sent a strongly worded despatch to the Viceroy of the Province. He advised the latter to have nothing to do with the General in the collection of *lekin*, but to leave it to the Chinese merchants themselves, who will honestly carry out their promise and forward the money, through their guild, to Canton. The Viceroy's answer is now anxiously awaited.

THE TAOTAI'S RETIREMENT.

Owing to having to go into mourning for his mother, who died recently, the local Taotai will ere long retire. The Taotai in his short tenure of office has made himself very popular with natives and foreigners alike. He is a progressive and enlightened official. The Chinese merchants are very sorry to lose him, and regret his unavoidable departure.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 13th January.

MORE TROOPS FOR KWANGSI.

The Chinese gunboat *Fo' Pow* arrived from Canton on the 5th instant with another batch of six hundred braves for Hamchow and Kwangsi to check further advances of the rebels, who are reported to be mustering in strong force, well trained and provided with modern armaments.

DARING PIRATICAL ATTEMPT.

Early on the morning of the 6th instant, between 2 and 3 o'clock, shooting was heard in the harbour just opposite the Customs House. About fifteen pirates, availing themselves of the stillness of the hour, the night being very dark and cold, boarded one of the fishing junks at anchor, compelling the small crew to keep quiet. The manoeuvre having been observed by some one on shore, however, the authorities were soon informed of it. A squad of twenty braves was despatched in boats to rescue the junk. On approaching the junk the braves fired several volleys, which had the effect of intimidating the pirates, who concealed themselves in the junk's hold until they were taken prisoners. A few of them, however, managed to escape, but eleven were captured and escorted to Limchow on the 7th to be dealt with.

EMIGRANTS TO MINTOK STOPPED.

An attempt has been made on the 3rd instant to send away to Mintok two junks overcrowded with emigrants.

The Commissioner of Customs, accompanied by a *Wei-yun*, paid a visit on board the junks to see whether things were properly arranged for a safe voyage. At the outset forty-four of the emigrants represented that they had been compelled to go. These were at once set free. As the junks were too small to carry the number of men on board, permission to leave was refused,

and the emigrants were landed the following day, probably to be sent by steamer instead.

Later.

DECAPITATION OF THE PIRATES

The eleven pirates arrested on the 6th instant while attempting to capture a fishing junk in the harbour and sent to Limchow for trial are reported to have been decapitated.

"PHENIX" AT PAKHOI.

H.B.M. gunboat *Phoenix* arrived here on the afternoon of the 10th instant and left this morning for a cruise.

Pakhoi, 17th January.

PIRATIC ATTACK FRUSTRATED.

A passage-boat, from this port to Hamchow, was attacked by three piratical junks on the evening of the 11th instant, scarcely one hour after she had left the harbour. The passage-boat, having temporarily managed to resist the attack, and being probably a faster sailer, escaped from her assailants and returned to port the same evening.

It is curious to observe the impassivity of the two Chinese gunboats in port—the *Kwong Kam* and *Kwong Yeuk*—which remained at anchor as if nothing had happened, instead of going after the pirates, who were sure to have been found in the vicinity, lying in wait for the first opportunity to commit the next depredation.

STEAMERS IN PORT.

Seldom do we see such a large fleet of steamers in port as on the morning of the 13th instant. There were no less than nine vessels—six merchant steamers and three men-of-war. They were the *Ape rad*, *Hue*, *Hailon*, *Frithjof*, *Peluee*, *Tsintau*, H.B.M. gunboat *Phoenix*, and the Chinese gunboats *Kong Kam* and *Kwong Yeuk*.

EMIGRATION TO MINTOK.

The s.s. *Tsintau*, with 1,087 emigrants on board, left this port for Mintok on the afternoon of the 15th instant. She left behind some seven or eight hundred emigrants for want of accommodation. I hear that another steamer is being chartered at your port to take these surplus labourers to the same destination. As reported in my last to you, these men would have gone by native junks weeks ago, had it not been timely prevented by the Commissioner of Customs and the *Weiyeun* of Foreign Affairs, the junks being inadequately provided to carry such a large number of human beings on a long voyage. Considering that the *Tsintau* is a vessel of only 1,000 tons, the number of passengers she took away this time is a little over the usual limit.

CHANGE OF COMMISSIONER.

I hear that Mr. E. O. Reis, acting Commissioner of Customs, is going home on leave next week. He will be succeeded by Commissioner H. B. Morse, who has just come out from home, where he has enjoyed his leave also. Mr. Morse is well known here, having been Commissioner at this port twice, the last time about four years ago.

A DRAWN NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

A guard-junk met a fleet of three or four piratical craft on the forenoon of the 13th instant, to the South of this port, and an engagement began, which lasted nearly one hour; at length both parties gradually withdrew, the war-junk probably perceiving that she was no match for the pirates. The heavy cannonading could be distinctly heard by those in the upper portion of the town.

It is stated that a number of vagabond Chinese soldiers have for some time past been committing depredations and robberies in the extreme north of Corea. The Government has awakened to the fact that this is an undesirable state of affairs, and has ordered a force of three hundred tiger-hunters—to whom arms have been issued—to hunt these men down!

One of the gunboats built at the Uraga Dockyard, Japan, to the order of the U.S. authorities at Manila, which left Karatsu on the 5th inst. for Manila, encountered a storm on the 6th inst. off Quelpart Island and had her bow and the berth of the chief engineer stove in by heavy waves. She had to put back to Goto Island, where the damage was repaired. The gunboat was in charge of Japanese, who were to deliver her at Manila to the U.S. authorities.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 12th January.

SOME DEFECTS IN JAPANESE EDUCATION.

Speaking at a meeting of his party in the early part of December last, Marquis Ito made an attack on the Provincial Governments for the way in which they are spending money. "The central Government," he said, "took the prison expenditure off their shoulders some time ago, but they have now spent two or three times the amount taken off. If we enquire into the way in which they thus augmented their local expenditure, much may be found to have been paid out in order to meet political necessities; but to me it seems that they have diverted a good deal of it toward perfecting the system of education." This seems a singular statement, but the translation of the speech is that of the *Japan Times*, the Marquis's own organ (according to the general report) and its correctness has never been challenged. The translation goes on as follows:—

"Indeed there are some people who seized by what I can only call an education mania, would go so far as to say that they would sell their farms in order to obtain money wherewith to satisfy their craze for education. This is absurd: even an ancient (sage) said that with clothing and food provided for him, a man (no matter how poor) will know how to be decent and moral." (The Marquis had probably in his mind the text I. Timothy 6, 8: "and having food and raiment let us be therewith content.") "Why do we pay so much attention to-day to education? It is the ultimate end of all kinds of education to build up the wealth of a nation. No one wants to turn out an army of dreaming theorists by encouraging education at the expense of the national wealth."

This shows precisely how the Japanese idea of education differs from ours, or at least from what we regard as ours. For I must insist on the fact that, though the Japanese believe they are copying us perfectly—with the exception of a few useless formalities such as church-going, religious instruction, &c.—the picture they present to our eyes is that of a profoundly materialistic people, as different from us as can be imagined. In short, we find ourselves in the position of an Irish friend of mine who was perfectly convinced that his English pronunciation was free from the slightest trace of the brogue until one of his Japanese pupils once asked him, in the serious and most respectful manner common to all Japanese students, what he meant by the word "foight."

We hope that our system of education is calculated to make of our boys something higher than mere money-making machines; but the average Japanese seems convinced that our real aim is to teach our boys to make money. It is amazing sometimes to watch the *naivete* with which they proceed to follow our example. Smiles's *Self-Help* and almost all books of the same type that have appeared since in English, are put into the hands of their children at early age; the reading books used in school are full of encouragements to go forth and make money; the continual advice of the teachers is to become rich. In many places children who have now prizes at school have been presented with pass-books in the local Post-Office Savings Bank containing a few sen to their credit, the object being to cultivate the saving habit; and again and again Japanese newspapers have announced triumphantly that in such-and-such a village the school children have between them no less than so many yen (generally about three thousand), so many sen, and so many rin in the local Post-Office Savings Bank.

Mr. Balfour once said, I think, that Cobden looked forward to a bagman's millennium, and certainly the Japanese seem unable to conceive of any other. When Count Matsukata returned from Europe recently he declared that the whole strength and power of Europe was built on the saving habits of the average European; and so impressed was he by this discovery that he forthwith drew up a new scheme for coaxing his own countrymen—naturally anything but thrifty—to acquire habits of thrift. Unfortunately the result of all this

effort—and I could easily make the list of such efforts ten times as long—is not encouraging. A great thirst for money has, it is true, been created, but the people have not become thrifty—quite the opposite; and as none of the religious systems of the West have spread to any extent among the people, that thirst for wealth seems to injure the national character and to upset to a certain extent the equilibrium maintained in that character under the rule of the Tokugawa Shoguns. It makes most students think that their time is lost if their studies do not bring them cent. per cent. within a few years; it has killed the old art of Japan; and has, so far as I can judge, prevented the rise of any modern school of literature, drama, or music in this country. Instead of a Milton or Tennyson, we have a Mr. Taguchi writing an epic poem on "Commerce," I forget in how many books. Even when leading papers get up literary competitions the literary element is conspicuous by its absence. For instance the *Yomiuri*, the *Yorozu* and the *Osaka Asahi* each opened a poetic competition toward the end of last year. What do you think the subjects were? "Japanese Expansion," "Success in Life," and "Osaka"—Osaka being, it should be stated, fondly called by the Japanese, "the Manchester of Japan."

More serious than the decline of poetry has been the rapid decline in commercial morality, due to the unscrupulous greed of certain business men, and a corruption in the legislature and in various branches of the public service—always excepting the army and navy—which, being officered as a rule by men who still possess a good deal of the old Samurai spirit of contempt for money, are so far incorruptible. The restraints under which the old Samurai lived, led as such restraints often do to the production of a high and striking type of character, but now these restraints have all been removed and replaced by a fear of poverty—the only hell a Japanese child knows—and a desire for success and riches—a Japanese child's only heaven. I mean that the tendency of the present system of education is to make a child regard poverty as synonymous with hell and riches as synonymous with heaven; but needless to say the work of centuries of abnegation and restraint cannot be undone in a day, and the Japanese child still occupies a high rank among the children of the world. There are Japanese men also, like the late Mr. Fukuzawa, the great educationist, whose disinterested devotion to a lofty ideal would do honour to any country.

Two events that lately occurred show in a striking manner how far this rot has eaten its way into the country. I refer to the struggle in the House of Representatives and to what is known as "the school-book scandal." With regard to the first, it is a melancholy fact that the Legislature in Japan is notorious for its corruption. I need not remind your readers that the Opposition lately rejected the Land Tax Continuation measure of the Government. The latter prorogued the House twice, with the object, it is said—according to a rumour which is evidently accepted as a fact by the *Japan Times*—of buying a majority. Commenting on this affair, the paper which I have just quoted says that if the Government gains sixty "turn-coats" by its process of "liquefaction" of members, that would be by no means sufficient to enable it to gain a victory. And what is this "liquefaction"? "In plain English," says the *Japan Times*, it "is nothing short of buying up votes." This serious charge against the Government is made in no hesitating way. "The oligarchical form of Government has," says the Tokyo journal, "good points of its own as well as bad ones, and of its evil features the worst it undoubtedly is its proneness to fall back on the corruptive practice in question. This trafficking in votes is certainly not unknown even in the West. But occasions for having recourse to this underhand branch of politics in order to remove a deadlock between the Government and the Opposition are far less those in countries than in one like ours, where cabinet the stands on an oligarchical basis."

THE SCHOOL-BOOK SCANDAL.

Even more disgraceful than the corruption of the Legislature is what is known as "The School-Book Scandal," a subject which is exciting wide-spread interest in Japan at the present moment. To state the question in a

few words, every little school-board district in Japan has a committee of local notables whose business it is to choose the school-books required in the schools under their control out of a number that have been published by different Tokyo firms and approved of by the Minister of Education. Owing to the great diffusion of education in Japan there is money in this business, for about four million yen is spent on text-books every year; and certain Tokyo publishers seem hence to have considered it worth their while to corrupt these committees wholesale with the object of securing their own books chosen. This system of bribery had been in full operation for a time before it was discovered, and the first inkling of what was going on was brought to the knowledge of the Public Procurators by rather an odd accident. It seems that a rather influential canvasser for an important firm of school-book publishers was robbed of his travelling-bag by a thief, who extracted all the cash in the bag and then threw it away. Somebody picked it up afterwards and handed it to the police, who were led by some entries in a note book contained in the bag to the discovery of the present wide-spread system of corruption, which seems to enclose in its net four Governors of Provinces, several ex-Governors, a gentleman who was recently a Director of the *Seiyu-kai*, Marquis Ito's party, and a vast number of men of light and leading in the educational world. As the arrests are still taking place daily, there is no knowing how the affair will end.

Taking the latest scandal as a text the *Asahi*, one of the leading papers in Tokyo, traces the corrupt practices of all kinds that have become so common in Japan to the adoption by the Japanese of the material side of Western civilisation without what it calls the counteracting spiritual side, and to the understanding of the old Japanese code of morals. The people are now possessed, according to the *Asahi*, by a veritable mania for riches, a mania which they are prepared to gratify by any and every means. This low ambition has affected the very core of the nation, and the accumulated corruption has now burst forth in the shape of scandals of all sorts, such as those about the state forests, those about the school-books, and others too numerous to mention. The *Asahi*—which is the most thoughtful of all the metropolitan dailies—emphatically declares that, unless this tide of corruption is checked, Japan will, in spite of her recent extraordinary growth, find herself collapse some day all of a sudden, as a big tree with a rotten core is liable to go down before the first strong storm.

The *Asahi's* view of the question is similar to that taken by all the leading Japanese. In a signed article published a few days ago by the *Jiji*, Baron Iwasaki also points out that during her marvellous progress of the last thirty years Japan has been too much absorbed in adopting the material side of Western civilisation to pay any attention to the spiritual side or even to keep up her indigenous code of morals, which has consequently been thrown aside. Taking into account the extent of her resources, she has, in this eminent financier's opinion, virtually reached the utmost limit of her material progress; but this progress must be regarded as resting on an extremely precarious foundation. It may even be compared to a house built on sand, while the progress of Western civilisation may be compared to house built on bed-rock. Every faithful subject of Japan must be filled with grave apprehensions about the future of his country and should endeavour to strengthen, to the best of his ability, the basis on which the country's prosperity is based. "It is the decay of the old social order and code of morals and the absence of any substitute that is the greatest danger to Japan now and in the future."

Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, according to a Peking telegram of the 2nd inst., has advised the Government that he has directed the Governor of Fokien to make investigation as to the amount of capital of the Japanese and German syndicates which are seeking to obtain concessions for the construction of a railway between Wuchang and Foochow. He has also told the Governor to ascertain what bearing the railway is likely to have on the opening of various mines.

NANGKIN.

Nankin, 12th January.

THE COMING OPENING.

Among the treaty ports scheduled to be opened next year is this capital city of Anhwei province. There are already apparent a few indications of the changes that may then be expected in this vicinity. About a mile of the river bank below the pagoda and the eastern suburb of the city has been bought up by a few wealthy mandarins, who hope to dispose of it at a handsome profit to the foreigners when the port is opened. They have mapped out a broad boulevard, just along the river bank and extending the whole length of the tract, and have planted trees along it to enhance its value. The result of the latter venture, however, has been rather discouraging, as most of the trees disappeared in a very short time—probably in smoke from the neighbouring hovels. But the broad stretch of land and the boulevard still await the arrival of the foreigner.

THE KAIFENG-NANKIN RAILROAD

is another topic of interest in Mandarin circles here. Mention of it has been already made in your columns. It is being planned by a syndicate of wealthy natives of this province, but does not seem as yet to have assumed any definite shape. As it would pass through a very productive and extensive region, with no navigable waterways, it should afford an excellent investment.

A COUPLE OF STEAM LAUNCHES.

owned, it is said, by a wealthy native, have for several months been plying regularly between Nankin and Tatung, and are doing a thriving business. When they were first started, the story goes, they were fired upon by the native boat-hongers at Tatung, whose trade they diverted. Next trip they flew the American flag and have since met with no further trouble. Certain it is that they fly the Stars and Stripes, but whether lawfully or unlawfully your correspondent does not know.

ONE OR TWO MINING SYNDICATES

under English direction have obtained important concessions with a view to developing the coal, copper, and other mineral deposits that are thought to abound in this part of the province. Mining has been already commenced near Tatung, but is still in the experimental stages. With the Chinese caution, the right to build a railroad to some mineral deposits in the interior has been granted on the express condition that no passengers or freight traffic shall be undertaken. Meantime the crude native mining seems to have been pretty generally stopped by the officials, but for what reason, opinions differ. Certainly the coal obtainable in the city this winter is as execrable as it is scarce.

OUR PRESENT GOVERNOR, NIEH,

who goes to Hangchow in the spring, has been quite energetic during his year's stay here. Thousands of soldiers were employed during the summer months in excavating a deep canal six miles long just to the west of the city, which will facilitate the native junk traffic no little. The Provincial Mint, quiescent for many years, has been refitted and is flooding the province with handsome ten-cash pieces. When first issued they bore the legend, one sen. This soon changed to one cent, and finally became completely anglicised as ten cash. They are thus far freely circulated at par. One of the Governor's improvements, very recently undertaken, has been the digging of a score or more of large public wells, at intervals throughout the city, and the cleansing and repair of the public sewers, which were in a wretched condition of neglect. Singularly enough, this was one of the few cities in Mid-China that almost, if not quite, escaped the cholera epidemic of last summer.

With the opening of the port, Nankin seems likely to gain considerably as a mission centre. At present the Roman Catholics, China Inland, and American Church Missions divide the field; but rumour says that the American Methodists and Christian Missions intend soon to open work here.—*N.C. Daily News.*

The Bangkok Races began on the 6th instant. On the 2nd the Royal garden party at the Saranrom Gardens, in honour of the birthdays of the Queen and Crown Prince, was held.

MANCHURIA.

20th December.

I daresay you would like to hear how we are getting along west of the now famous Liao. Well, we have got back to our normal condition pretty well, a little brigandage but not wholesale; and occasional carts stopped and rifled, but not every cart, so the arteries are becoming filled with corpses of all colours, and in a day on the main road several hundreds of carts may be seen.

A curious example of the complicity of officialdom with brigandage was revealed a few days ago at the newly erected *hsien*, known formerly as *Hsiacheshan* now as *Chenansien*; a well-to-do and, what is of more importance, well-connected gentleman travelling north was stopped within four miles of there. The gentleman, relying on the goodness of his connection, raised a row. The military magistrate said: "Oh! it is a small matter among friends," and presented him with two fine mules to replace those lost to the non-official robbers. Most of this magistrate's assistants and soldiers were formerly in "the Profession of the Road."

Much is now said about *lekin* and its stoppage, but what would happen to the trade of the country if there were no *lekin* stations? Why, it would run riot, and railways would flourish; people could wear decent clothes; lines would be opened up; the foreign indemnity would be paid; and China would become a rich country! All this and much more calamitous things would happen if those Saviours of their Country, the *lekin* collectors, did not exist. "Long live the *lekin* collectors," say the *lekin* collectors. Take a case in point. Koupangtsu is the station on the Chinese Imperial Railway nearest Kuangning, which district is, or should be, supplied therefrom. It was so supplied during the Russian occupation. There was an attempt made then, and *lekin* was collected for a few days on even British goods, but our vigilant Consul, Mr. Hosie, had a word to say and the *lekin* passed away and "left not a rack behind." Now there are three *lekin* stations flourishing in that one spot, and another gentleman without much means but with a general desire to improve the shining hour is endeavouring to serve his country by inventing some good reason for another (and yet Chinese are supposed to be deficient in patriotism). The result is that the country is safe from goods being poured in by that line, and the railway is saved from too large dividends, and when one railway is so, others needed cannot be made.

How then—what happens?—oh, no, not so bad as that! The winter is cold, and some clothing must be worn, but we pretty well let foreign cloth alone, and wear home manufactures, but we are clever people, and we have found "there are no ways like the old ways" even though they are long, and winding, and rutty; so we use them. We are independent of railways now (as the railway returns may show), but our carts and sturdy coolies traverse the way between Kuangning and the distant port, and we leave the railway and *lekin* people high and dry, for the *lekin* is sometimes fourfold and always double the charges for road cartage. At a stroke we thus save all railway charges and half *lekin*. What need then is there for railways? "All hail the worthy executioners (by strangulation) of trade! All hail the *lekin* collectors."

"For men may come; and men may go,

But we go on for ever."

—*N.C. Daily News.*

CHEFOO.

The *Chefoo Express* says:—

The merchants of Chefoo, both foreign and native, are to be congratulated upon the outlook of trade for the coming year. During the past year a steady increase has taken place in all branches of business, resulting in greater developments in trade than can be found in any year previous. The imposing of a Custom's Tariff upon imports into the Russian port of Vladivostok has tended to check trade in that direction, but it is to be hoped that this is only temporary, as there is every probability of the port being declared open to free trade in the near future. The native new treaty ports have increased their trade considerably, resulting in large consignments of goods being shipped to

them during the past year, and it can be presumed that the opening of the spring season will again see a resumption of profitable trade.

Nothing perhaps indicates the growing importance and prosperity of a port more than the increase in value of land. This, as everybody is aware, has been considerable here, and the people who acquired property in or near the settlement a few years ago would be very loth to part with it now for a good many times the amount of the original cost. Several new firms have started during the year and this indicates a further expansion of trade. The Customs jetty is nearly always full of cargo and enquiries from the examining staff of the Customs elicit the news that they are always in full employment, and one need only pay the examining shed a visit to find out the truth of this statement. A casual glance along the bund will show that the passenger traffic still shows returns, as it is seldom that there is not a steamer in port discharging or loading a living freight.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MR. C. BONE'S DEPARTURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"
Hongkong, 21st January.

SIR,—On the eve of my departure for England it is my duty to publicly express my thanks to all those who have done anything in any way to assist in the building and furnishing of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home in Arsenal Street. Our well-wishers have been many; their kindnesses have been not a few. Further do I on behalf of the committee thank those who assisted us last week with the view to the paying off of the debt incurred by the additional storey to the Home. Lastly I must record the debt of gratitude we owe to Mr. G. Stewart, who so kindly brought our Home to the notice of the Navy League and obtained therefrom the sum of \$100, and to the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., and Mrs. May for the sum of \$700 banded me as the result of the variety entertainment which they initiated and carried through so successfully. Indeed the generous support given to the Home from the first by Mr. and Mrs. May has very greatly assisted us, and to me personally it has been at times nothing less than an inspiration.—Yours, etc.,

C. BONE.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., was held at the offices of the general managers, Des Vœux Road, on the 17th inst. Hon. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Messrs. C. Klinck, A. G. Ward, T. Tomlin J. H. Lewis, T. H. Reid, G. Murray Bain, Hamilton Sharp, Fung Wa Chun, Chow Hing Kee, and Sui Un.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the printed report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, so with your permission we will follow the usual course and take them as read. You will see from the accounts that 27,800 shares, which remained unplaced this time last January, have all been taken up since then, and that the paid-up capital of the Company now reaches \$1,000,000. We have, therefore, to pay a dividend on this amount although we did not get the full benefit of it during the whole year, and although we are straining a point to do so, we recommend declaring the usual dividend of 8 per cent. and so keep it uniform with those of previous years. I have no doubt that you will agree with me that in the interests of all bona-fide investing shareholders, it is advisable to maintain an even rate of dividend—(hear, hear)—and as far as possible avoid fluctuations which only play into the hands of outside speculators, whose operations are not for the benefit of his company. I regret that it only leaves a mere \$1,000 to put to reserve fund, but if we do as well in proportion this year, we should have a substantial amount leftover for reserve after paying 8 per cent. again next time. We do not

overlook the importance of building up a reserve fund, as we cannot always expect the same immunity from losses that we have hitherto enjoyed, and we ought to have a good reserve to meet such contingencies. (Hear, hear). In the past year we had to call in or foreclose one or two loans, but we suffered no loss, our margins being ample and we trust this may always be the case. There is nothing, I think, in the accounts that requires explanation. Interest paid, commissions, etc., are considerably higher than in the previous year, and we shall endeavour to keep these down in future but the more we borrow, the more we can lend, and, of course, with increased business we must expect an increase in these items. Before I move the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to hear any remarks from shareholders.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. TOMLIN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. REID moved the re-election of Messrs. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Chow Tung Shau, and J. H. Lewis to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. KLINCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. WARD proposed the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin as auditors.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that dividend warrants would be ready this morning.

This was all the business.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The twelfth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders in the National Bank of China, Ltd., was held at the offices of the Bank at noon on the 21st inst. Mr. C. Ewens (chairman) presided and the others present included Messrs. J. Lants, Cheu Tung Shan, Chan Kit Shan (directors), Hon. G. W. F. Playfair (Chief Manager), Fung Wa Chun, E. C. Wilcox, E. Kadoorie, H. C. Wilcox, E. W. Terrey, and H. Pinckney.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, in submitting to you the report and accounts for the past year, which, with your permission will, as usual, be taken as read, I would point out that, notwithstanding the abnormal depression of the past twelve months, our profits are nearly as much as last year, but owing to the heavy decline in exchange it takes nearly \$12,000.00 more than we paid last year to pay the same dividend in sterling. While on the subject of exchange it may be as well to mention that the time appears to be approaching when it may be advisable to bring our shares more into line with the present ratio between gold and silver, i.e. either by placing the shares entirely on a silver basis, if such is possible, or else by reducing the sterling amount of the shares to their proper equivalent of silver. I merely mention the matter now so that shareholders may have time to consider it; nothing can be done in that respect without calling an extraordinary general meeting, and it is not proposed to call such a meeting at present, but as I said before, the time is probably approaching when it may be advisable to do so. The unfortunate fraud on the part of our comprador in Yokohama is much to be deplored, and as he hung himself in gaol it was hopeless to discover how he made away with the proceeds of his defalcations, and therefore the only proper course was to at once write it off from reserve, as we have done. I should, however, mention that this agency has now been withdrawn. I can hardly close without referring to the burning question of an ever-dropping silver currency. With the probable adoption of a gold basis in Singapore it is high time that Hongkong should carefully reconsider its position. I know that there is a great deal to be said upon both sides of the question, and there are strong vested interests still in favour of continuing on a silver basis, but if the inhabitants of Hongkong were polled to-morrow I believe that four out of five Europeans would vote for a fixed standard. Until we have a fixed standard we can never expect to attract

home capital to Hongkong. To return to our accounts, gentlemen, the figures are nearly the same as last year, with the exception of a slight increase in accounts and a slight decrease in our borrowings in London against security (loans payable). We have been able to hold the annual meeting earlier this year than hitherto, and will continue to do so in future, as we have arranged that our London office shall close their books on 30th November instead of 31st December. I have now to move that the report and accounts be adopted.

Mr. TERREY seconded, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

The next item of business was the confirmation of the appointment as a director of Mr. J. T. Lants, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. KWAN TONG KUK, the appointment was duly confirmed.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX proposed the re-election of Mr. Ewens as a director, and this was seconded by Mr. NG CHIH MI and agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—As regards the vacancy on the London Committee the directors think that in the meantime two members of the Committee in London are sufficient, and if agreeable to you I would put it in the form of a motion.

Mr. KADOORIE—I quite agree with the suggestion of the Chairman, and shall be very happy to second it if it is put in the form of a resolution.

The CHAIRMAN—Then I beg to formally move that the London Committee be restricted to two in the meantime, and that the re-election of the third director is not necessary.

Mr. KADOORIE seconded the motion, which was carried without opposition.

On the proposition of Mr. WAI KEE SANG, seconded by Mr. CHAN HEE, it was agreed that Mr. R. C. Wilcox and Mr. A. R. Lowe, chartered accountants, be elected auditors to act jointly or severally at a remuneration of \$300 each, or \$100 for a single audit. It was further decided that Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co., chartered accountants, be re-elected auditors in London at the same remuneration before.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LD.

The following is the fourteenth report of the board of directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at noon on 26th January:—

The net profits for the year ending 31st December, 1902, including \$8,305.04 balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$732,640.76. From this amount an interim dividend of \$6 per share has already been paid. It is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$6 per share, making a total dividend of 12 per cent. per annum on the capital, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$51,707.26 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. Haupt and Mr. H. P. White having resigned their seats, Mr. C. Michelan and Mr. J. H. Lewis were invited to join the board in their place, and this now requires confirmation.

Messrs. N. A. Siebs and D. M. Moses now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. F. Henderson, the accounts have been audited by Mr. T. Arnold in conjunction with Mr. J. C. Peter, who now retire but offer themselves for re-election.

C. W. DICKSON, Chairman.

Hongkong, 12th January.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.	
31st Dec. 1902.	LIABILITIES.
Capital	\$ 0.
Equalisation of dividend fund	5,000,000.00
Accounts payable	750,000.00
Balance of profit and loss account	1,504,043.19
Less interim dividend paid	\$ 0.
	732,640.76
	300,000.00
	432,640.76
	\$7,686,643.95

31st Dec. 1902.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash		4,575.74
Amount advanced on mortgage		3,290,199.05
Amount invested in property		4,343,697.55
Furniture account		3,763.29
Accounts receivable		44,408.32
		\$7,686,643.95

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec. 19-2.	Dr.	\$ c.
To interim dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year		300,000.00
To charges account		27,884.40
To repairs to house property		17,010.37
To advertising		567.85
To fire insurance		10,798.82
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees		\$7,500.00
Managing directors' fees		72,433.51
Auditors' fees		1,000.00
Final dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year		300,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account		51,707.26
		\$788,902.21

1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 19 2.	Cr.	\$ c.
By undivided profits, 1901		8,305.04
By interest on mortgages		\$238,498.12
Less—Interest on loans payable		\$1,890.19
		156,607.93
By rents		217,103.86
By commission		13,973.58
By scrip fees		268.00
By profit on sales of property		392,643.79
		\$788,902.20

WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LD.

The following is the report of the general agents to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at 11.45 a.m., on the 26th January:—

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$40,224.14. From this amount an interim dividend of \$1.50 per share has already been paid, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$1.60 per share making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$3.10 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$924.14 to credit of new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Hon. J. J. Bell Irving having retired, Hon. C. W. Dickson has been appointed in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Hon. C. W. Dickson and Mr. A. J. Raymond retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

In the absence of Mr. F. Henderson, the accounts have been audited by Mr. J. C. Peter, who now retires but offers himself for re-election.

A. SHELTON HOCER,

Secretary to the Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd., General Agents for the West Point Building Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, 12th January.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st Dec. 1902.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital		625,000.00
Accounts payable		2,585.83
Balance of profit and loss account		\$40,224.14
Less interim dividend paid		18,750.00
		21,474.14

31st Dec. 19 2.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cost of property		611,830.80
Cash		2,144.77
Accounts receivable		35,085.00
		\$649,059.97

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec. 19-2.	Dr.	\$ c.
To fire insurance		3,247.75
To charges		290.15
To Crown rent and rates		8,854.90
To repairs to buildings, &c.		4,334.00
To commission to agents		2,048.12
To interim dividend of \$1.50 for half-year		18,750.00
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
Directors' fees		\$500.00
Auditor's fees		50.00
Dividend of \$1.60 per share		20,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account		924.14
		21,474.14
		\$58,593.66

1st Jan. to 31st Dec. 1902.	Cr.	\$ c.
By balance brought forward		1,309.87
By rent		56,036.90
By interest		1,625.29
By scrip fees		27.00
		\$58,999.06

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 19th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CALNDAR.

The calendar of cases was five in number, implicating the same number of persons, and included one charge of murder (the Ship Street case) and two charges of arson.

HOUSE COLLAPSES.

The Attorney-General (Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley), who appeared for the Crown instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, stated to his Lordship that certain enquiries had been made into collapses of buildings or part of them and the Coroner had committed certain persons for trial; but he (the Attorney-General) had found that there was no ground for any criminal charge against them, and exercising the powers he had as Attorney-General he had decided not to proceed further in the case.

His Lordship said that in a case of that kind the Attorney-General had the same powers as a grand jury in England and he had practically thrown out the bill. Therefore it only remained to deal with the recognisances. He thought they had better be discharged and that would be an end of the matter.

The Attorney-General—If your Lordship pleases.

His Lordship—Direct that they be discharged.

THE SHIP STREET TRAGEDY.

Chirutaso Matsumoto, a Japanese, was charged with having, on 26th December, in Ship Street murdered a Japanese woman.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. H. N. Ferrers, barrister-at-law.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. Wacker, E. M. Hazeland, W. Farmer, Fung Ku Shau, F. J. V. Jorge, Li Wai Ching and A. Neilson.

The Attorney-General in his opening statement said that the accused was a Japanese subject charged with murdering a person who was either his wife or his woman. The facts were very short and simple and left no doubt as to the guilt of the prisoner. It appeared that on Sunday, 21st December, about 10 o'clock in the morning the deceased woman was in the brothel in which she was living and had been living for some considerable time previously. On that morning the prisoner visited her. The other inmates of the house (who would be called) heard a noise in one of the cubicles into which the place was divided. They were attracted by this noise and on going to the cubicle they saw deceased lying on the floor and the prisoner—some said stamping on her; others, striking her; and others jumping on her. When the other girls appeared, they said, the accused ceased the assault upon the woman and then went into the kitchen on the ground floor of the next house and lay down on a bench there pretending to be drunk. The girls found the deceased woman bleeding at the mouth. They tried to revive her, and sent for a Japanese doctor who found that she was dead. Then the police were called in and the prisoner was arrested.

Several of the Japanese girls who live in the house were examined and told in effect how they were attracted by a noise from one of the cubicles and on going there found the prisoner jumping on and striking the deceased who was lying on the floor. When they appeared he desisted and went away. They attempted to revive the woman but when the doctor arrived he said she was dead. One of the witnesses stated that when they all went into the room and told the prisoner to stop assaulting her, the woman said, "Leave him alone; don't mind me."

In cross-examination by Mr. Ferrers, the fact was elicited that the deceased woman was not liked by the other inmates of the house

because she had a bad temper and sometimes got drunk; she frequently brought bottles of whisky into the house.

A Japanese girl who came from Formosa to Hongkong with the deceased woman stated that she had seen the deceased along with the prisoner in Ship Street about a year ago, on which occasion he gave her \$50 and told her to pay certain debts. Deceased had told witness that she had run away from her husband and would not return to him.

Dr. Hunter deposed that he made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased woman. The cause of death was intracerebral hemorrhage, due to very severe injuries to the head from a blow or blows; there was considerable bruising on the head and a large bruise over the lumbar region.

Evidence of a formal character was afterwards called.

For the defence it was stated that the deceased woman was the wife of the prisoner. She ran away from him in Formosa and came to Hongkong. He threw up his employment and shipped here after her as carpenter on a steamer. When he found her in this brothel in Ship Street he gave her \$50 to pay her debts and get her out of the place to go back and live with him. Then he had to go away with his ship. On his return he went to get her out of the brothel but found that she had spent the money which he had given to her to pay her debts. She refused to go with him, and in the result the assault was committed.

Mr. Ferrers in addressing the jury on behalf of the prisoner said that the latter had admitted all along that he caused the injuries which caused the woman's death, but contended that he did not go to the brothel with any intention of killing this woman, who was his wife, but that he was angered at the time by the refusal of his wife to leave the brothel. The jury had to take into consideration the question of provocation, especially in view of the certain amount of authority that was allowed the husband among Eastern peoples.

His Lordship, intervening, reminded the learned counsel that while in some Eastern nations the husband did exercise a great authority, this case must be judged according to English law which laid it down that although a wife might provoke her husband he must not strike her. It was quite true that under the English law it had at one time been permitted a husband to beat his wife with a stick of a certain thickness—no thicker than his thumb—but that was in semi-barbarous times.

Mr. Ferrers went on to argue that at any rate a certain amount of allowance had to be made for the excitability of the Oriental temperament, which was especially likely to be brought into play in a case of this kind where a wife had deserted her husband to go and live in a brothel and had squandered the money he gave her to buy herself out.

The Attorney-General in his address argued that the charge as made had been proved and asked for a verdict accordingly.

The Court adjourned at half-past one for luncheon.

On the Court resuming, his Lordship summed up at length, and the jury retired at 3.20 o'clock to consider their verdict.

They returned at 3.50 and the Foreman declared they had unanimously found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter.

Mr. Ferrers asked his Lordship for a mitigated sentence on the ground that the accused was not a British subject.

His Lordship passed sentence of ten years' hard labour.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 20th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

EXPOSING A CHILD.

Kwok Mui, a Yaumati woman, was charged with exposing a two-year-old infant, whereby its life was endangered and its health likely to be permanently injured.

She pleaded not guilty.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. F.

B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), conducted the prosecution in the absence of Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. S. Perry, E. M. Hazeland, J. W. Oker, A. Ramjahn, B. Eustace, V. C. Rozario, and J. M. Noronha.

Mr. Sharp said that the charge against the prisoner was one of exposing an infant child. The facts were simple. On the 6th of last month at 8 o'clock in the evening—at which time it was cold and there was a certain amount of rain falling—a constable on duty in Station Street, Yaumati, saw this woman throw a bundle down on the ground under the cover of a side verandah and then run away. This proceeding aroused his suspicions and he ran after her, caught her and brought her back. Then he examined the bundle and it was found to contain an infant girl about a month old, wrapped in soaking or something of that sort. The constable took the woman and the bundle to the police station and the child was immediately sent to the Italian Convent at Yaumati and everything possible was done to revive it, but it died in the course of that night or early on the following morning. When arrested the woman stated that the child was not her child.

The police constable who arrested the woman was the first witness called; he gave evidence to the same effect as contained in Mr. Sharp's opening statement.

Dr. Hunter, who made a post-mortem examination of the child's body on the 8th December, stated that the child was in a condition of great emaciation; it was a very badly nourished child and in a delicate state of health. The immediate cause of death was diarrhoea. The exposure which the previous witness had spoken of would be sufficient to endanger the child's life and permanently injure its health.

A Chinese witness corroborated the constable's evidence.

Inspector D. Macdonald, Yaumati, gave formal evidence.

Among the other witnesses was the Yaumati Chinese interpreter, who deposed that when the woman was interrogated in the police station she stated that she did not put the child there. She had gone out to buy *samshu*, and was returning home when a man drew her attention to the child lying on the street. She informed a constable of the fact and he arrested her as having left the child there.

His Lordship, in summing up, said it rested with the jury to decide upon the facts as put before them. Many of the jury, he pointed out, would be aware how little value was attached among a certain class of the population to female life among babies and children.

The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty as libelled.

His Lordship in passing sentence said he took into consideration that the prisoner was an ignorant Chinese woman and that as such she had probably been brought up to look upon it as a natural thing to get rid of a delicate female child by throwing it into a river or in some such way. But Chinese of her class must be educated and taught by example that this thing was not to be allowed with impunity where His Majesty's flag floated. The sentence would be six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Chan Sz was charged with having at Mongkok, on 7th December, being then armed with a knife, robbed a shopkeeper and his wife of the sum of about \$30, a gold-mounted bangle, and a silver-gilt ring.

A plea of not guilty was tendered.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. V. C. Rozario, Chan Choy, E. M. Hazeland, Li Wai Ching, A. Nilsson, B. Eustace, and E. J. Main.

In the absence of the Attorney-General, the Crown was represented by Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, who in opening the case stated that on the date in question the keeper of a drug-shop at 143, Mongkok was closing up for the night when a man came in ostensibly for the purpose of buying medicine. He was closely followed by three other men, all Chinese; as soon as they got inside the shop one of them produced a pistol, pointing it towards the shopkeeper, and another a large knife or chopper, with which weapon the shopkeeper was also threatened. The robbers told him not to make a noise, then got hold of him and took

from his arm a large bangle, which was valued at \$50. They afterwards took him into the back-room and tied his hands behind his back with zinc wire. His wife also was attacked by these men; a ring was taken from her hand and she was threatened not to make any noise. Then the prisoners searched the premises and found \$27 hidden in the bed and \$3 in the shop. With all the stolen property they safely got away. Prisoner was recognised by a Chinese police constable about three weeks later in Des Vaux Road West and, out of twelve others, was identified by the shopkeeper and his wife as the robber who had held the knife.

After hearing evidence,

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

His Lordship passed sentence of seven years' imprisonment with hard labour, the prisoner to receive a whipping of 20 strokes with the birch within the first week.

The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 21st January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF ARSON.

Chui Chong was put in the box on a charge of having on 27th December set fire to a dwelling-house at 318, Queen's Road West.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. S. Harston, solicitor.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. H. Schurenberg, T. Binks, Fang Ku Shan, Ahmet Ramjahn, J. M. Noronha, A. Nilsson and W. Goetz.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, who appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor) stated in opening the case that the prisoner was charged with having been concerned with others in setting fire to the house in question. The Crown would undertake to prove the charge on circumstantial evidence, that was to say, by adducing to the jury a set of facts connected with the prisoner from which the jury might reasonably draw an inference of his guilt. The facts the Crown had to rely upon were these: He in company with another man, who was implicated in a second charge of arson, was occupying a room of the house 318 Queen's Road West on 27th December last. They had been in occupation of that room for some short time previously. They rented their room—a first-floor room—from Chui Chung, who occupied the basement or ground floor, for the purpose of using it in their trade of box-making. He would direct the attention of the jury to the similarity of the family names of the prisoner and the man from whom the room was rented. Prisoner's name was Chui Chong. The name of the man who rented them the room was Chui Chung. This name Chui—the family name—was common to both. The importance of this connection was that the ground floor was occupied as a spirit-shop and was insured for \$3,000, and evidence would be given to show that the value of the articles in that shop was very small. In other words, by this fire the owner of the shop on the ground floor was to get \$3,000. On the night of the 26th, it would be proved, the prisoner and his partner occupied this room on the first floor and the fire originated in the room. About 2.25 on the morning of the 27th a Chinese constable from information received was going towards that quarter of the town when he saw a man running out from the verandah of No. 318 in what he described as a suspicious manner. That man was identified as the prisoner's partner in occupying the room on the first floor. Almost immediately after the first man had run out and disappeared up the street the constable saw the prisoner running from the stairs of the same house and arrested him. Upon being seized, the prisoner said in a low voice that the accountant's office on the first floor was on fire. The constable was in plain clothes so that it was reasonable to suppose that the prisoner did not know that he was a constable. The constable went upstairs to the first floor, still holding the prisoner, and found smoke coming from the room there. He took the prisoner to No. 7 Police Station and gave the alarm of fire. At

the station, prisoner was examined and his hands and clothes were found to be smelling strongly of kerosene. The theory put forward by the prosecution was that the prisoner had thrown kerosene about the room for the purpose of causing a fire. The defence explained that it got on his hands because he used kerosene with which to wash off the paint or varnish among which he worked all day as a boxmaker. But there was fresh kerosene on his hands and clothes and this was at half-past two in the morning. His under-jacket also was damp with kerosene. On this man being taken to the police station a European constable (P. C. Edge) ran to the house and went upstairs. The smoke was then so dense that he could not get into the first floor. He went on the second floor and found nobody there. Then he came down and found in the shop on the ground floor some Chinese, who ran out when he gave the alarm. The jury would see that almost simultaneously with the running out of these two men from the house fire broke out; that these facts pointed to arson was what the prosecution contended. The defence set up the cock-and-bull story—or rather the cat-and-lamp story—that the prisoner was asleep and was awakened by hearing cats fighting; and that the cats knocked over a lamp and thereby caused the fire. The cat-and-lamp story would not do. This house was of three stories. The owner of the spirit-shop rented the whole house, and upon this fact considerable importance must be placed. This man sub-let the room on the first floor to the prisoner and his partner as boxmakers. The theory the Crown put forward was that the prisoner and his partner and the other man Chui Chung were all concerned in burning this house down in order that the owner of the wine-shop should get \$3,000 insurance.

His Lordship commented that there was no charge of conspiracy.

The Attorney-General replied that there was not, for the reason that the keeper of the wine-shop had cleared out.

His Lordship said he made the remark because in the very last case of the kind reported from England he saw that two men were charged with conspiracy. That was a very convenient method of dealing with a case and put the whole thing into one.

The Attorney-General said that would have been done had they been able to get hold of the other man Chui Chung. In conclusion he said he would prove to the jury that the boxmaking business carried on by the prisoner and his partner had only been in that house some twenty days before the fire occurred.

Evidence was then taken.

Mr. Sharp in opening the case for the defence said that their case was a complete denial of the allegation of the Crown, who made all sorts of guesses and suggestions but could not actually tell them how the fire broke out. The evidence that had been called showed only a case against the wine-shop on the ground floor, the Wing Tai shop. He did not suggest that the Wing Tai did this; but the whole case of the Crown was that the Wing Tai was concerned and if so nothing was easier than for the Wing Tai people to start the fire in the floor above them and so divert suspicion from themselves.

For the defence evidence was then taken. Li Tong, the man who is charged with arson in connection with the same fire but in a different case, was examined.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 22nd January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF ARSON.

Evidence was resumed in the case in which Chui Chong was charged with having committed arson by setting fire to a house at 318, Queen's Road West on 27th December.

At the conclusion of the evidence course addressed the jury, and his Lordship summed up, pointing out that when the fire broke out the prisoner did not give the alarm of fire as he might have been expected to do; and that the spirit-shop below the premises occupied by the prisoner was very much over-insured.

Was there any motive assignable why the prisoner and his partner should set fire to the premises? There was none unless that they were in league with the people down below, and the Attorney-General's theory was that the boxmaking business carried on by the prisoner in the room above was only a pretext for placing inflammable material there for the purpose of setting fire to the house.

The jury retired to consider their verdict at four o'clock. After an absence of 15 minutes they returned into Court, and the foreman stated that by a majority of 4 to 3 they found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship pointed out that while a majority of 4 to 3 was sufficient under the old law, the new law required a majority of 5 to 2 to convict a person of any offence. The jury must again retire and reconsider the verdict.

After a further absence of 14 minutes, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty by a majority of 5 to 2.

His Lordship deferred judgment until the other charge of arson in connection with the same fire should be tried.

The Court adjourned.

Friday, 23rd January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF ARSON.

Li Tong, a well-dressed young Chinaman, was charged with having, on 27th December, set fire to the dwelling-house 318, Queen's Road West, there being at the time several Chinese in the house.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. S. Harston, solicitor.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, and Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law, appeared for the Crown, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. F. B. Bain, W. Weinberg, B. Eustace, E. J. Main, A. Shaw, P. Hardman and W. Farmer.

The Attorney-General stated in opening the case that the prisoner was charged with setting fire to the dwelling-house 318, Queen's Road West, there being at the time persons therein. It would be proved that No. 318, Queen's Road West was burned down on the morning of the 27th December, that there were then persons therein; the fact that it was a dwelling-house could not be disputed. It would be proved also that at the time of the fire the prisoner was in this house and was in occupation of the room in which the fire originated. The evidence connecting the prisoner with the fire would be shortly as follows: A Chinese constable from information that he had received was in the locality about half-past two in the morning, and as he approached this house his attention was attracted to a man leaving the dwelling—coming in a surreptitious way from underneath the verandah of the house. This man subsequently turned out to be the prisoner. Immediately after the prisoner ran away the constable went nearer to the building and another man ran out. That other man, it would be proved, was the prisoner's employee, ostensibly, as the prosecution said, as a box-maker carrying on a boxmaking business in the room in which the fire originated. Upon the second man emerging from the staircase and as he got to the door he was seized by the constable, who was in plain clothes and who, they believed, the prisoner did not know was a constable. Prisoner said to the constable in a low tone of voice that the accountant's room on the first floor was on fire. The constable entered the house and found it impossible on account of the dense smoke to go into the room on the first floor that had been occupied by the two men. Not being satisfied with the appearance of things the constable blew his whistle and proceeded to the station with the man whom he had captured. At the station the man was searched and his hands and clothes were found to be smelling of kerosene. He mentioned this man because he was with the prisoner and the case for the Crown was that the two were jointly concerned in the affair. Prisoner got clear away. Next morning about eight o'clock

he was arrested in a wine-shop called the Tai Lee, some distance up the street. Upon the whistle being blown a Chinese constable rushed up, the alarm of fire was given, and within a very short space of time there were white constables on the scene from No. 7 police station, which was within 100 yards off. The Crown would be able to prove—and he wanted the jury to particularly remember this—that when the Chinese constable who arrested the second man and saw the prisoner, ran to get into the room, he found that the fire had got such a hold of the room that he could not enter it. That showed that the fire had been burning for some time in that room before the prisoner left it, and he would ask the jury to draw from that the inference that the fire was no accident but that the prisoner and his accomplice remained there long enough to see that their work was so far advanced that their object would be accomplished; and he thought he would satisfy the jury that the prisoner and the other man were not really carrying on the trade of boxmaking at all but that that was a blind. He said so because, the room in which this trade was ostensibly carried on having fallen in when the house was gutted, the debris was searched next morning about 11 o'clock by a white police officer with a gang of coolies, and they found nothing of any shape resembling tools, such as iron hammers, chisels, saws and so on, which might reasonably be expected to be found there. This was a very suspicious circumstance, from which an inference could be drawn antagonistic to the prisoners, because it showed that either there were no tools at all and that the boxmaking business was a blind or that not wishing to lose their valuable tools in the fire, the prisoner and the other man removed them beforehand. It must be one or the other. Had the tools been there they must have been found beneath among the debris. The only things found were wine-jars and the usual fittings of a wine-shop, an iron safe, and an old chopper. The evidence against the prisoner would be of the character known as circumstantial, and the evidence he would put forward would, he thought, lead the jury to the conclusion that the prisoner set fire to the house or was a party to the setting on fire of the house.

Evidence was then led.

The Attorney-General, when the first witness was called, stated to his Lordship that he had been called away on other business and would leave the case in the hands of his learned friend Mr. Morgan Phillips.

Mr. Morgan Phillips proceeded with the examination of the witness, but had only addressed to him a few questions when the Attorney-General returned into Court and, stating to his Lordship that his presence elsewhere had not after all been required, resumed charge of the case.

The evidence taken was substantially the same as that which had been heard on the two previous days in the case against Chui Chong.

Several witnesses having also been examined for the defence,

The Court adjourned.

THE MURDER OF MR. EVANS.

Before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Friday Wong Kwai and Wong Lin were charged on remand with piracy on the Canton River on or about 12th November last, and pleaded not guilty. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, conducted the prosecution.

The piracy referred to, as has already been stated, was that which involved the shooting and subsequent death of Mr. Evans, for many years constable to H.B.M. Consul at Canton. The facts of the case are related in the statement made to the police here three days after the event by Pang Chun, master of the pirated junk *I Hop*. He said that about 7 p.m. on 12th November, whilst on the way from Canton to Hongkong with firewood, and when off Foo Mun, in Chinese waters, three rowing-boats containing twelve men each attacked the junk, which the pirates boarded; they were armed with muskets and revolvers. Several shots were fired, and the crew of the *I Hop*, including the master, went down into the hold; an European passenger (Mr. Evans) was wounded in both legs. The junk was then ransacked, and the robbers made off with the following property:—\$100 in ten- and

twenty-cent pieces, and a quantity of Chinese jewelry, consisting of gold finger-rings, ear-rings, and bangles, of the value of about \$260; total value, about \$360. Pang Chun concluded his statement, by saying that the robbers could not be identified. The authorities here set to work on the case, and on New Year's Night, in Kowloon, arrested three men, the two defendants and another who turned King's evidence and whose evidence given at the first hearing of the charge against the two prisoners has already been published.

A seaman on the pirated junk said that when the look-out man hailed the three boats in which were the pirates the reply was given that they were fishing-boats. They were rowed straight for the junk, and when they neared it the pirates fired shots at the junk, whose crew, realising what the pseudo fishermen actually were, hid below. Before they boarded the junk the pirates threw a stink-pot on the deck, and when it had exploded they climbed on board. Witness heard the Englishman's voice, and then shots, after which there was silence. In a few moments the pirates sought out the hiding *fokis*, and searched them. They asked witness where his master was, and he replied, "In Canton." Then the pirates abused one another, and when they had desisted they put the crew of the junk in the forehold, themselves seeking the afterhold. Soon they re-entered the forehold and searched their prisoners once again, afterwards taking their departure. Witness then described how the pirates were armed, and said that as they were putting away they told the crew of the junk to pull up the anchor, which together with the sail, they themselves (the pirates) had dropped when they boarded the junk; they also told the junk's crew to sail towards the west. Witness saw the Englishman lying wounded in both legs; he was afterwards transferred to the steamer *Kong Nam*. The defendants witness recognised as two of the robbers; they carried torches when they descended into the hold with the others to search the crew, and he got a good view of their faces. Before the robbery he had never seen them. On the 16th ult. he picked them out from amongst a number of other Chinamen at the Central Police Station.

Second defendant (to witness)—Are you the master or a *foki*?—I am a *foki*.

How much did your master lose?—I don't know.

Has your master's boat a number?—I never saw any number.

Are you sure you identify me?—Yes, I can identify you accurately.

Have you ever identified any other man incorrectly?—No.

The hearing was then adjourned until next day.

REVIEWS.

Through Hidden Shensi. By FRANCIS H. NICHOLS. London, George Newnes, Ltd. In this book Mr. Nichols has given to the world one of the most entertaining and readable itineraries that have ever been written by a traveller in China. That it has any further value than as such we very much question, although its pretensions apparently extend beyond this limit. Mr. Nichols however enjoys the distinction of being one of the few white writing-men who have penetrated into remote Shensi, the Province of China situated in the extreme corner of the barricaded North-West. The reason of his visit to China was that the *Christian Herald* of New York had raised a fund for the sufferers from the famine in Shensi and had cabed the money to the only missionary in the province, Mr. Duncan of Hsian. As agent of the fund, the author was sent to China to investigate famine conditions and report upon them. As he says, he thought that meant nothing more than a few days' journey from Peking, but discovered that the 750 miles that lie between the Capital and the seat of the famine constituted as great an interval of silence as the distance between the Far East and the Far West, or from the China coast to New York. But Mr. Nichols decided to attempt the journey despite the dangers that beset the venture. He travelled to Shensi by way of Paoting, Taiyuen and Pinyang. From Peking to Sian his journey

occupied only twenty-nine days—October 16 to November 11—and after a short stay in Sian he travelled back overland till he struck the Han, and so down that river and the Yangtze to Shanghai, which was reached on 22nd December. It will thus be seen that Mr. Nichols was something like eight weeks on the road and two weeks in Hsian. He certainly was granted unequalled facilities for getting rapidly over the country. When he notified the authorities in Peking of his desire to go to the capital of the famine-stricken Province, he got a Royal passport from Prince Ching. This ensured an escort of soldiers from one mandarin's jurisdiction to the next. The whole idea of the mandarinship appears to have been to hurry Mr. Nichols, armed as he was with his formidable passport, as fast as possible through their territory, each one dropping him like a hot potato into the reluctant fingers of his next neighbour. Travelling hard all day amidst an escort of soldiers, and necessarily sleeping all night, it would be impossible, we say again, for such a traveller to claim for the book he might write its inclusion in any category except that of an itinerary. Yet, knowing nothing previously of the people or of their language, Mr. Nichols does not hesitate to make extremely dogmatic deliverances on all or most of the great problems which confront Western scholars of things Chinese, of whom the most enlightened would be diffident in going farther than to aver that he has travelled not much beyond the fringe of the subject. Mr. Nichols starts out with preconceived prejudices against the Chinese and ends, forsooth, in using ironical quotation marks when he speaks of Western "civilisation." Inversely he employs the same distinguishing marks regarding "heathen" China. The last case is a wonderful concession for a man with pronouncedly missionary leanings; the first is preposterous. Then he has nothing too hard to say against Great Britain and her "opium wars." Why, the poppy bloomed in broad Szechuen before the Chinese came under Manchu subjection. Opium was cultivated before the pigtail. The pictures which Mr. Nichols draws of the depopulated "opium villages" and of the listless, half-dead victims are sad enough and lamentable enough in all conscience, but why blame England for another's failings? China may be said to grow the bulk of her own opium to-day. But to return to the author's comparison of the Eastern and the Western, there is one remark we should like to make. He talks with iteration of the absence of vice in Shensi, or rather in Hsian, which is even more curious. "There are no 'dives' in Hsian, no haunts of crime and human degradation, neither are there any rendezvous of gilded vice and dissipation. Places of this character exist in China, only in foreign concessions, in treaty ports, where they are beyond the reach of Chinese law." No vice in China except in the treaty ports! Without appearing to condone vice, we think that Mr. Nichols is making an extremely rash statement which is incapable of proof and of which the disproof is easy were it not unsavoury. In justice to the ungodly treaty ports we must be allowed to say so much. And then as to Eastern civilisation. Nobody but the most ignorant would assert that China had not a civilisation before Europe. But to vaunt a civilisation because it was old two thousand years ago and to give it precedence in the present day though it has stagnated as one might say ever since, is rank sophistry. Can a country be called civilised in the modern sense where slavery is rampant, where infanticide is winked at, where cruelty to humans and animals is a system, where bribery and corruption prevail, where (as a recent writer put it) a man in high place has to be dishonest if he wants to save his head. But enough of Mr. Nichols's dogmatism. In despite of it one can accompany the author with real pleasure on his journey. His observations on the country through which he passed and the people whom he had to meet are necessarily superficial. But they are none the less interesting on that account, however their value may be affected thereby. His book is finely printed and the illustrations are as excellent as they are numerous, which is saying a lot. As a frontispiece we have a photograph of Prince Ching, taken by Mr.

Nichols himself—the only photograph ever secured of His Royal Highness. There are Mr. Nichols's book concerning his meteoric flight into and out of Shensi will no doubt find hundreds of readers who in contemplation of also appended a most useful map and an index. Its many excellencies will be oblivious to its faults. It may be had from Messrs. Kelly & Walsh.

Cantonese Apothegms. By the Rev. H. J. S EVENS, London Missionary Society. Canton, E. Shing.

PUBLISHED at the small price of \$1.50, Mr. Stevens's collection of Cantonese apothegms, classified, translated and commented upon by himself, with assistance from two Chinese gentlemen, should, as the author hopes, prove interesting to the general reader and helpful to the student of Cantonese. Perhaps with quotations, for which unfortunately we have no space it would be difficult to give a better idea of the scope of the book than by mentioning some of the various headings under which the sayings and proverbs are grouped. Among these are:—Customs; Feasts; Foods; Foreigners; Gambling; Law-suits; Medicine; Weather; Worship. Mr. Stevens's method is to give the apothegm first in its Chinese characters, next in a Romanisation after Dr. Eitel's system, thirdly in a literal translation, and lastly in a free translation. Then he appends an explanation of the obscure points. The reader, therefore, cannot complain that he is not given considerable insight into the construction and meaning of every saying quoted in the book. Speaking on behalf of the general reader, we must confess to finding the little collection most agreeably entertaining and we can commend it to all interested in things Chinese. The printing is very creditably done and the book is serviceably bound.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 17th January.)

The races will be over one month hence, and those who have followed the horses in their work should have been able to decide by now which is their particular fancy. The Derby is the race most discussed, and I see from the entries that 16 horses have inspired sufficient confidence in their owners to warrant them in accepting their nominations. "The more the merrier" is certainly an axiom that should apply to horse-racing, and I hope that all of the acceptors may start. In the event of their doing so, however, I should expect to find a considerable distance separating the hind and the foremost before half of the journey has been traversed. On the other hand, the race can by no means be called a one-horse race, and there are several candidates well in it. Col. Hughes's *Brilliant* is still favourite, and I am inclined to think he will remain so. The way that he covered a mile and a quarter in 2 minutes and 36 seconds on not particularly good going some two weeks back was enough to warrant his position in the market, and he seems to be an easy horse to ride, which must be an advantage to any jockey in a long distance race. Mr. Morgan Phillips's mare *Legacy* has not gone back in public opinion, and I think that her methods of going have slightly improved. I should like to see her extended. Those who have to do with her, however, seem to insist that my whim shall not be satisfied; they may be right. Captain Langlands's brown mare *Lady Lena* is a sharp-looking animal and seems to think nothing of cantering her mile in 2 minutes—without any seconds added on. I may be wrong but she is "my" fancy. Then there are the two Bank ponies, one belonging to Mr. Smith and the other to Mr. Hunter, and two nice-looking ponies they are too; but they are "ponies" and not "horses," and there's the rub—I wonder if the respective owners have thought about the weight-for-inches question. However, if their owners are well advised, they will both have a try and should be quite close at the finish. Mr. Shewan's roan mare has improved lately, and is quite a showy animal. General Gascoigne's black mare is one that has improved a great deal lately. She was very thin for some time and looked as if she might snap in two, but all this has altered in the past few weeks and she still looks like coming on.

Personally I am far more interested in the old pony races than in the griffin races, and I think that the times in those races will be better and the racing more interesting. Some people say horses won't do here and the climate does not suit them. All I can say to such pessimists is: Go and have a look at some of the animals that have been here for one, two, and three years, those that have had fair play and have been taken care of. Look at some of Mr. Master's horses; they don't appear to have a tremendous lot the matter with them. Mr. Master has his own stable and his own groom: why doesn't someone else get his own stable and his own groom? I think Mr. Master has proved conclusively that horses will "do" here and, what is more, do well. Mr. Rennie also has his own stable, and though he has had bad luck by his Derby candidate going wrong he has a couple of ponies in his stable in very good condition indeed. Moreover, there are a number of horses at Kennedy's stables that under the present régime are in excellent condition. *Glory* is an animal that has improved out of all knowledge in the last 12 months and might surprise us all. What we want to see is good even racing here in Hongkong, and as one who has watched it for several years in succession I am inclined to think the gods that be have been setting to work in a more workmanlike style to attain that object than has ever been done before. May they continue and succeed in their efforts!

RAILS.

(Daily Press, 24th January.)

Cricket during the week has been brisk, though no first-class match has been played. The H.K.C.C. "A" team simply pulverised the Craigengower C.C., for whom the bowling of Bird in the first innings and Dalrymple in the second was altogether too much. The losers were without Hartman's bowling, but they were clearly overmatched. To-day the game on the Cricket Ground is between sides representing Public Schools and Universities and The Rest, which should be well worth watching. To-day, too, the Sherwood Foresters meet the A.O.C. The Sherwood Foresters on Thursday won a rather remarkable match over H.M.S. *Eclipse* by 2 runs only, thanks to their wretched fielding, which is quite down to Hongkong level. What it is that makes Hongkong fieldsmen so absolutely bad it is hard to explain. We should see some very exiguous scores on the Cricket Ground if so very many catches were not dropped.

A football match of some interest is down for decision to-day. In the Association Shield competition the Victoria Recreation Club, the civilians' last hope, play off their tie with the 78th Co. R.G.A. The V.R.C.'s fiasco last Saturday against "G" Co., Sherwood Foresters, does not encourage one's belief in the prospects of the Club. There may have been some reason for the V.R.C. turning up four short in their last match before the Shield tie, but it certainly looked very ill. To-day's game is on the H.K.F.C. ground.

The polo match last Saturday was a distinct success, and though Kowloon were beaten, they had distinctly hard luck, as the final score of 1 goal to 3 subsidiaries shows; one of the "subs." actually hit the goal-post, but selected to pass through the subsidiary side of it. The return match will be played at an early date, when the spectators ought to be treated to a keen, if not a keener, struggle for supremacy.

Local hockey circles have been quiet of late. On Thursday the Club beat the 78th Co. R.A. in a friendly game by 4 goals (Chater 2, Barnes 1, Boggan 1) to 0, though playing with ten men only. Next week at least four Shield games should be decided, the Club's first XI meeting the 14th Bombays on Monday and the R.A. on Thursday, while the Club "A" team meets the R.A. on Tuesday and the 14th Bombays on Wednesday. I understand a mixed hockey match—Hongkong v. Kowloon—takes place on Monday at East Point, and though Kowloon will soon be able to tackle Hongkong with success at some games I fear she will be brought to task on this occasion.

Now that the yachting season is more than half-way through, it may not be out of place to venture on an opinion as to the merits of the two new boats *Dione* and *Vernon*. All *Vernon's* successes have been obtained in a variable light breeze, which proves her superiority over her rival *Dione* under such conditions. As the winds for the remainder of the season will in all probability be light, judging from the experience of former years, we may look for a close finish for Championship honours of this harbour. By *Alannah's* win in the last race for the Commodore's Cup she ties with *Vernon* (who won the first race), so that they decide today, starting at 2.30 p.m. I predict a win for *Vernon*, unless a very strong blow gets up.

As the date of the races draws steadily nearer—we are now but seventeen days from the opening—there is a lot of speculation in the Colony. On all sides one hears of sweeps and books, and evidently backers are looking forward keenly to the annual festival. The Derby naturally monopolises much of the attention, and Mr. Morgan Phillips's brown mare *Legacy* seems quite to have supplanted *Brilliant* as first favourite. But there is a tendency to look to the jockey. It is certain that one rider's mounts will come in for much attention during the meeting. It will be seen that the Jockey Club advertises a race-meeting of one day's duration early in April, if sufficient entries be received. The programme is to be issued later on. It seems rather a curious experiment. An autumn meeting of one day would look to have better chances of success.

The supporters of bowling at the Hongkong Club are looking forward with anxiety to Tuesday week, when the question of the retention or abolition of the Club bowling alleys is to be settled. At first there was a large majority against keeping up the alleys, but now I should not be surprised to see a revulsion of opinion. After all, it seems a pity to put an end to the now historical contests between the English and German Clubs and abolish a game which is connected with the early days of the Hongkong Club, unless it be proved absolutely necessary.

Boxing in Hongkong seems to be in a poor way. The suggested—and practically advertised—meeting between two local experts, one naval and one military, is not to come off, the talking tactics of the "ring" in England and in America being apparently faithfully copied here. Commonsense no doubt argues that if one can make one's self out to be the better man with one's tongue, it is unnecessary to use one's fists. In the meantime, the sporting contest of Sunday last was a different kind of affair. Unfortunately the proceedings were private.—I see that Shanghai is looking forward to a twenty-round boxing contest between Charles St. Clair, middle-weight champion of Brooklyn, N.Y., and James Casey, of Manila, at catch weights, to be held at Chang-shu-ho's Gardens on the evening of the 7th February, for a side wager of \$500 and half the gate receipts, the latter to be divided in the proportion of 75 per cent. to the winner and 25 per cent. to the loser. The parties have already deposited \$500 as a guarantee of their appearance. If Casey proves successful he is prepared to meet any of the water weights in China—Ryan of Tientsin McAuliffe's conqueror, preferred—and is ready moreover, in proof of his willingness and good faith, to wager \$1,000 on the result.

A general meeting of members of the Ladies Rifle Association will be held at Government House on Tuesday, February 3rd, at 11.30 a.m., to fix the dates for the Annual Prize Meeting and to arrange the conditions for each prize. Prizes have very kindly been offered by Mrs. May, Mrs. Sibb, Sir Paul Chater, Messrs. J. R. Murray Smith, and Fung Wa Chun.

OMPAX.

A despatch dated Peking, 14th February, to the *N.C. Daily News* says:—The Ching Ling railway, which the Empress Dowager ordered to be built in readiness for the visit of the Court of the Western Tombs, has now proceeded as far as the practical completion of the earth-works, and 1,500 men of H.E. Yuan Shikai's troops are distributed along the line.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

The idea of the present committee of the H.K.C.C. in arranging matches with some of the local Clubs is a laudable one and one that should commend itself to all true lovers of the national game. These matches are undoubtedly much appreciated by the junior Clubs and though as a rule, they get a beating, still, the games must be both instructive and encouraging to them and generally tend to increase their interest in the pastime. The Craigengower C.C. has had a very successful season so far—winning most, if not all of its matches. The committee were naturally anxious therefore to meet "foemen worthy of their steel" and arranged a match with the H.K.C.C. This match was duly played on the 17th inst., in lovely weather, and the junior Club was beaten very easily. They showed decided promise in all departments of the game and, should a return match be arranged, it is probable they would give a much better account of themselves. The Club team—called "A team"—was a good all round side, strongest, perhaps, in bowling and, as usual, showing signs of weakness in fielding. Craigengower won the toss and batted first, a start being made at 11.5—20 minutes after the advertised time. They made a very poor show against the bowling of Bird and Dixon, the former especially seeming to be too much for them. They, however, had hard luck in their crack batsman, Brawn, who has been scoring very consistently lately being run out—a decision that did not meet with unanimous approval. Bawa was the only man to give any real trouble and his 27 was much the highest score on the side; indeed Herton was the only other man to make double figures. Bird bowled very well and took 6 wickets for 46. Dixon got 2 for 18 and Rimington captured the last wicket with the only ball he bowled. The whole side was out at 1 o'clock for the poor total of 69. After tiffin the Club started their innings with Turner and Dalrymple and so well did they play that the score had been taken to within 1 of their opponents total before Turner was bowled for a capital 29. Rimington did not stay long and Dalrymple, after being joined by Dixon, was out at 75. Dalrymple played excellent cricket for his 42. Raymond, who followed, stayed with Dixon until the score had reached 129, when he was caught for a useful 29. Dixon meanwhile had been playing very well and continued to do so until, with his score at 52, he was finely caught and bowled by Herton. No one else on the side did much and, when the last wicket fell, the score had reached the respectable total of 191. Herton was by far the most successful bowler and took 7 wickets for 79 runs. With rather over an hour left for play, Craigengower went in again but, with the exception of Pestonji (12) and Herton (19), no one reached double figures and they were all out for 71. The Club thus won very easily by an innings and 51 runs. Dalrymple bowled with great success in the second innings, taking 9 wickets for 25. The Club fielding was somewhat slovenly, but fewer catches were missed than usual. The following are the full scores and analyses:—

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
R. C. Witchell, b Bird	1	b Dalrymple	3
M. H. Carteam, c and b			
J. T. Dixon	7	b Dalrymple	3
L. E. Lammert, b Bird	1	b Dalrymple	6
A. O. Brawn, run out	4	c and b Dalrymple	0
M. E. Asger (Capt.) b Bird	4	c Bird, b Dalrymple	3
L. A. Rose, b J. T. Dixon	0	b Dalrymple	7
E. Bawa, c Bird, b Rimington	27	c Gouldsmith, b Dalrymple	4
J. L. Stuart, b Bird	9	not out	2
E. R. Herton, l.b.w., b Bird	10	b Dalrymple	19
R. Pestonji, b Bird	0	c Mackenzie, b Dalrymple	12
F. Ford, not out	1	b Lambie	1
Extras	5	Extras	11
Total	69	Total	71

H.K.C.C.	
W. C. D. Turner, b Herton	29
Lt. Dalrymple, R. V., c Lammert, b Herton	42
Lt. Rimington, S.F., c and b Brawn	4
J. T. Dixon (Capt.), c and b Herton	52
Lt. Raymond, R.N.R., c Brawn, b Herton	20
A. Mackenzie, c Herton, b Witchell	0
Lt. Gouldsmith, R.N., c Lammert, b Herton	7
R. E. O. Bird, b Lammert	8
T. C. Gray, b Herton	4
P. T. Lambie, c and b Herton	2
H. Warren, not out	5
Extras	9
Total	191

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

CRAIGENGOWER C.C.

	First Innings.				Second Innings.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
L. E. O. Bird	12	2	46	6	—	—	—	—
J. T. Dixon	11	6	18	2	—	—	—	—
Rimington	0.1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dalrymple	—	—	—	—	11.1	4	25	9
Lamble	—	—	—	—	6	1	22	1
Mackenzie	—	—	—	—	5	—	13	—
H.K.C.C.								
	O.	M.	R.	W.				
Prawn	13	—	55	1				
Pestonji	7	1	20	—				
Herton	15.1	—	79	7				
Witchell	7	—	21	1				
Lammert	3	1	7	1				

20TH CO. A.O.C. v. ROYAL ENGINEERS.

This match played at Happy Valley on the 19th inst., resulted in a victory for the former by 37 runs. Appended are the scores:—

20TH CO. A.O.C.

Lillywhite, c Tillman, b Bowyer	3
Rutter, c Jackson, b Bowyer	10
Skinner, c and b Bowyer	19
Burgess, not out	11
Herton, b Mildrum	8
Cook, run out	2
McGibbon, b Bowyer	1
Wolley, c Jackson, b Mildrum	2
Bromley, c Jewsbury, b Palmer	11
Bradford, c and b Bowyer	5
Laskbrook, c Palmer, b Bowyer	3
Extras	7
Total	85

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Mildrum, c Burgess, b Cook	1
Tillman, b Cook	7
Jackson, b Bradford	2
Bowyer, b Cook	0
Jewsbury, b Bradford	7
Barrett, run out	2
Palmer, run out	22
Graber, c Skinner, b Cook	4
Gould, not out	1
Shufflebotham, run out	0
Blaber, b Skinner	0
Extras	2
Total	48

SHERWOOD FORESTERS v. H.M.S. "ECLIPSE."

Played on 22nd inst. on the Cricket Ground and won by the Sherwood Foresters by 2 runs on the first innings. Scores, as supplied:—

SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Lt. Mott, l.b.w., b Gouldsmith	40	not out	23
Serget. Bedford, retired	1		
Lt. Hodgson, b Legge	6		
Lt. Cor. Meakin, b Legge	0	b Barron	0
Lt. Rimington, b Lt. Raymond	21	b Raymond	13
Serget. Murphy, b Cain	15	b Raymond	13
Serget. Buckley, c Dunn, b Raymond	0	b Barron	0
Pte. Cope, not out	19	not out	7
Pte. Richardson, b Gouldsmith	0	b Barron	0
Pte. Elms, b Raymond	13	b Raymond	1
Pte. Bacon, b Raymond	4		
Extras	9	Extras	4
Total	127	Total (6 wickets)	55

H.M.S. "ECLIPSE."

Smith, b Rimington	23
Lt. Gouldsmith, c Cope	41
Mid. Phillips, b Hodgson	0
Sub-Lt. Barron, c Hodgson	13
Lt. Raymond, c Cope	20
Mid. Biggs, b Hodgson	0
Mid. Horton, c Hodgson	8
Mid. Clark, c Cope	6
Mid. Best, b Cope	11
Mid. Grant, b Cope	7
Mid. Cain, not out	4
Extras	10
Total	125

20TH CO. A.O.C. v. H.M.S. "ALBION."

Played at Happy Valley on Thursday, the 22nd inst., and won by the soldiers by 37 runs. For the winners Skinner claimed 5 wickets for 7 runs. Scores:—

H.M.S. "ALBION."	
Mr. Boxer, b Bradford	10
Thompson, b Bradford	0
Mr. Wilson, b Bradford	0
Rev. Moore, c Lashbrook, b Skinner	21
Dr. Raymond, c Hatwell, b Bradford	2
Houghton, b Bradford	4
Garrett, b Skinner	5
Herlin, b Skinner	1
Mr. Garrett, b Skinner	12
Hatley, not out	0
Warner, c Lashbrook, b Skinner	0
Extras	4

Total 59

20TH CO. A.O.C.

J. C. A. Lillywhite, b Hatley	16
C. Rutter, c Raymond, b Houghton	25
H. B. Skinner, c Garrett, b Warner	21
G. O. Heron, b Houghton	6
E. McGibbon, not out	8
H. P. Bradford, c Wilson, b Boxer	11
H. Cook, c Raymond, b Boxer	0
F. S. Bromley, c and b Boxer	5
W. P. Burgess, c and b Houghton	0
T. Lashbrook, c Garrett, b Houghton	0
A. E. Hatwell, absent	—
Extras	10

Total (9 wickets) 96

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. THE NAVY.

A scratch game was played on the 17th inst. between fifteens representing the H.K.F.C. and the Navy. There was a good turn-out of spectators, and the weather and ground conditions were ideal for a hard and fast game. The teams were as follows:—

H.K.F.C.—Knox, full back; Barnes, Pearce, Graham, and Robertson, three-quarters; Pad-day, and Jordan, halves; Hallifax, Goldring, Wolfe, Cooper, Chard, Boyd, Jameson, and Clark, forwards.

Navy.—Corsar, full back; Lloyd, Royle, Robinson, and Horton, three-quarters; Hallett and Macleod, halves; Boyle, Layrd, Halahan, Snowdon, Hughes, Bissett, and Greenwood, forwards.

The Navy lined up one man short, and the Club kicked off, the game settling down in the Naval 25. Following a scrum and a Club run, Corsar, in tackling, was hurt, the game having to be stopped. The homesters opened the scoring through Graham; the kick, however, was unproductive. Some good scrummages took place, the Club having rather the best of matters. After a brilliant run the Club's second try was scored by Cooper, but was not improved upon. A three-quarter dribble ended by Pearce gaining a try, which also was unproductive. The score at half-time was—

H.K.F.C., 3 tries (9 points); Navy, nil.

The Navy restarted with great dash, but Graham gained possession, and after a dribbling run over half the length of the field he scored an unconverted try. A fifth try was gained by Hallifax, and resulted in a goal. The Navy were deserving of a little encouragement, and they got it in the shape of a goal. Lloyd picked up from a scrum, and passing all opposition ran round and touched down immediately behind the goal. The kick was taken by Hughes and converted. The Club were not long, however, in securing a sixth try by Robertson, followed by another from Clark—both unproductive. The whistle sounded with the scores:—

H.K.F.C., 1 goal 6 tries (23 points); Navy, 1 goal (5 points).

V.E.C. v. "G" CO., S. F.

The Victoria Recreation Club F.C. sustained a severe defeat on the 17th inst. at Causeway Bay by "G" Co., Sherwood Foresters—being beaten by 4 goals to 1. This result, however, was in large part due to the fact that the V.R.C. were four men short; the vacancies were filled by substitutes from the Army.

In the first round of the Challenge Shield a match was played on the 19th inst. at Happy Valley between "B" Co. and "E" Co. of the Sherwood Foresters, and ended in favour of "B" Co. by one goal to nil. The game was played in a drizzling rain and there were few spectators. Play was not of a high order of quality, though both teams have several good individual men in their ranks. Combination was weak on both sides.

The football match played at Happy Valley on the 21st inst. between the H.K.F.C. and the Royal Engineers ended in a draw, there being no goals scored on either side.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

COMMODORE'S CUP.

The second race for the Commodore's Cup was sailed off on Saturday, the 17th inst., in light and variable winds. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, to the rock S. W. of Cowichow Island, rounding it to port, and thence home. The following boats competed:—*Vernon*, *Alannah*, *Kathleen*, *Min*, *Colleen*, *Bonito*, *Erica*, *Iris*, *Maid Marian*, *Doreen* and *Payne*. The start was made at 2 p.m. in a light north-easterly wind, *Colleen* crossing the line first, closely followed by the rest. Unfortunately, as soon as the little fleet had cleared the shipping they encountered one of those calms so frequent in these waters. Beyond it there was a nice breeze blowing from the south, but the question was how to get to the beyond! The *Min*, steering a central course, was the first to get the new breeze, and standing to the north of Green Island quickly left the fleet. The *Vernon*, *Alannah* and *Iris* were close together on the southern shore, all three becalmed. The *Alannah* was the first of the three to feel the wind, which strengthened to the westward, and standing to the South of Green Island was soon in hot pursuit of *Min*. *Kathleen* and *Colleen*, further to the northward, had picked up the breeze too, and followed some distance astern. *Iris* slowly crept out of the hole she had got into, but an unkind fate brought no breath of air to *Vernon's* sails, though *Alannah* and *Iris*, lying almost alongside her, were more fortunate. *Vernon* was thus the last of the whole fleet to catch the new wind. An interesting race was now in progress between *Alannah* and *Min*, and it was hard to tell which would round the rock first. *Alannah*, however, stepped out in good style and was leading boat at the mark, which she rounded 15 minutes ahead of *Vernon*. On the homeward reach *Alannah*, *Min*, *Kathleen* and *Colleen* chose the Sulphur Channel, a rather risky course considering the calm that had existed off Kennedy Town on the outward journey. The three first got hung up again off the east end of Green Island, but *Alannah* soon crept away from the others and getting into the easterly wind strung out a long lead. *Vernon* kept to the northward and sailing in fine form made it apparent that she would still make a bid for first place; but she was unable to catch *Alannah*, and the final result was:—

<i>Alannah</i>	...	1
<i>Vernon</i>	...	2
<i>Kathleen</i>	...	3
<i>Min</i>	...	4

The corrected official times were as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Alannah</i>	5	48	10
<i>Vernon</i>	5	56	17
<i>Kathleen</i>	5	52	—
<i>Min</i>	5	56	—

Alannah thus secured a win, *Kathleen* a second and *Min* a third. *Vernon* losing third place by 17 secs. only. The result of the two races for the Cup is thus:—

<i>Alannah</i>	...	10
<i>Vernon</i>	...	10
<i>Kathleen</i>	...	4
<i>Iris</i>	...	4

These ties will be sailed off on Saturday, the 25th inst. over the same course, provided the weather permits, but should it be found desirable the alternative course will be adopted.

On the 18th inst. the 7th Club race was sailed over course 24 in a light breeze, which, though somewhat variable both in strength and direction, gave a fair test of the capabilities of the boats in light weather.

In the 1st Class the *Vernon*, *Dione*, and *Alannah* started as nearly level as possible for the run to the mark-boat off Green Island. *Vernon* as long as she had her wind clear slowly and steadily drew away, but soon after she had drawn clear *Dione* and *Alannah*, who were running very evenly for about half the distance, by sailing in her water obstructed her wind

and checked her speed. About half way *Alannah* got clear of *Dione*, but though she did her utmost could not catch *Vernon*, who rounded the lee mark with a lead of about half a minute on *Alannah* and over one on *Dione*. To the Trocas Rocks buoy the next mark *Vernon* conclusively showed her superiority in windward work in light weather, pointing higher than either of the other two she rapidly slipped away from *Alannah* and though *Dione* appeared to come up on her somewhat at one time she could not get on even terms and had to go about to weather the front of *Stonecutters*. The *Vernon* rounded the buoy just 2 minutes ahead of *Dione* and about 3 or a little more ahead of *Alannah*. The wind by this time had drawn to nearly S.E., making it a close haul to the mark-boat on the starting line. *Vernon* after rounding did not sail as close to the line as she could, expecting doubtless that the wind would free. This let *Dione* weather out a good bit on her and reduced her lead when the boats were off Yaumati to about half what it had been. In spite of this the *Vernon* was the only boat of the three to make the mark-boat in one tack and she rounded it 2 minutes 15 seconds ahead of *Dione* and about 4 minutes ahead of *Alannah*. The run to the North Fairway buoy was uneventful and in the heat to the line *Vernon* took what seemed to be the better course, kept over towards the Hongkong shore and worked up through the shipping in the middle of the harbour, but to the onlooker, it appeared to be unwise having the race in hand not to keep between the *Dione* and the line, and to allow her to slip away into the stronger wind clear of the shipping in search of a fluke. This time the wind kept true and the *Vernon*, well sailed right to the finish, increased her lead and won easily.

The official times are as follows.

	H.	M.	S.	Points	Total
<i>Vernon</i>	4	22	0	10	36
<i>Dione</i>	4	24	30	4	40
<i>Alannah</i>	4	29	44	1	18

ONE DESIGN CLASS.

All five boats got away well, *Bonito* and *Kathleen* leading slightly. On the run to the lee mark *Colleen*, *Erica*, and *Kathleen*, luffing out towards *Stonecutters*, obtained a short lead on the other two. Near the mark-boat *Erica* and *Kathleen* were just ahead of *Colleen*, *Erica* having the inside berth. *Kathleen* lowering her spinnaker luffed suddenly across *Erica* to get the inside turn, but failed to secure an overlap before the mark was reached and had himself to concede the inside berth to the *Colleen*. *Min* and *Bonito* rounded close together shortly afterwards, *Min* being just ahead. One long leg was all that was required to clear the point of *Stonecutters*; *Kathleen*, holding a better wind than *Colleen*, worked out a short lead on her, but *Erica*, though sagging somewhat to leeward, sailed faster and reached *Stonecutters* point about 100 yards ahead. *Erica* then made the mistake of keeping too far to windward and gave away her lead to *Kathleen*, who rounded the buoy about 5 yards ahead of her. *Colleen* had been compelled to tack to clear the island, but rounded the buoy third. *Min* had been dropping steadily astern the whole way from the mark-boat and was last at the buoy, though not far behind *Bonito*, who had thrown away her chances of catching the leading boats by making an unnecessary tack. On the way to the mark-boat on the line *Colleen* kept well up to windward and sailing very fast gained considerably. *Erica* just before reaching the mark caught and passed *Kathleen* again, but unfortunately in gybing took charge and apparently fouling the mark gave up the race. This left *Kathleen* and *Colleen* to fight for first place, the other two being well astern. After rounding the mark-boat *Colleen* came up on *Kathleen* and the two ran dead level to the Fairway Buoy. *Kathleen* having inside berth this time. *Colleen*, however, was better handled, and rounding very smartly swung up to windward of *Kathleen* and obtained a slight lead. In the beat home *Kathleen* again got away and finally won one of the best races of the season by a little under a minute from *Colleen*. *Min* some way astern was third. But for *Erica's* unfortunate accident the finish would have been even more interesting, and seeing how well she was sailing she would very likely have won the race.

The official times were:—

	H.	M.	S.	Pts.	Total
Kathleen	4	42	31	10	25
Colleen	4	43	25	4	16
Min	4	46	31	1	19
Bonito	4	45	30	0	15
Erica	gave up			0	15

2ND CLASS.

In the 2nd class *Chanticleer* sailed by Mr. C. S. Gubbay showed what a good boat she still is and taking the best of a good start was never headed throughout the race. *Maid Marian* and *Iris* both seemed out of form, for they could do nothing with *Doreen*. *Payne* made at least one unnecessary tack, or with her 11 minutes' handicap she would have been very near winning.

The official times were:—

	H.	M.	S.	Corrected time.	Pts.	Tl.
<i>Chanticleer</i>	4	56	5	4 53 5	10	11
<i>Doreen</i>	5	0	37	4 57 37	4	16
<i>Maid Marian</i>	5	2	5	5 1 5	0	11
<i>Iris</i>	5	6	50	scratch	0	34
<i>Payne</i>	5	9	0	4 58 0	1	26

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST JANUARY.

	1902.	1903.
Below overflow.		
Tytam	39 ft. 1½ in.	14 ft. 11 in.
Pokfulam	27 ft. 4 in.	21 ft. 6 in.
Wongkicheong	32 ft. 0 in.	35 ft. 2½ in.

	1902.	1903.
STORAGE GALLONS.		
Tytam	131,170,000	270,070,000
Pokfulam	11,620,000	21,600,000
Wongkicheong	3,190,000	1,900,000

Total 145,980,000 293,570,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

	1902.	1903.
Consumption ...	76,899,000	69,834,000 gallons
Estimated population	211,900	216,800
Consumption per head per day	11.7	10.4 gallons

Intermittent supply in force during December of both years.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

	1901.	1902.
Consumption ...	9,787,000	14,516,000 gallons
Estimated population	53,700	59,500
Consumption per head per day	5.8	7.3 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

HONGKONG.

The members of the German Club were "at home" in their new buildings between 4 and 7 p.m. on the 19th inst. to all members of the Hongkong Club.

Beside the one fatal Chinese plague case, the only case of communicable disease reported in the Colony during the week ended the 17th inst. was one of enteric fever (Chinese), fatal.

The Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club will give performances of *His Excellency the Governor* on Friday and Saturday, 30th and 31st inst., and Monday, 2nd February, commencing each evening at 9.15. The ticket office will be open on Monday next at the City Hall.

While the river steamer *Boihao* (Captain Paxton) was coming to Hongkong from Canton she picked up a Chinese passenger who had fallen overboard from the *Kwongchow* about 20 miles from here. The man had been in the water for nearly an hour, but was little the worse for his long immersion.

Leung Lin, 71, Wellington Street, reports to the police that his foki Wong Lam (18), whilst painting the ceiling of the ground floor of the house No. 21, Connaught Road West, overbalanced and fell to the ground, a distance of 13 feet. The injured youth was removed, suffering from severe injuries, to the Tung Wah Hospital, where he died.

Lady Berkeley, wife of Sir H. S. Berkeley, K.C., Attorney-General, arrived in the Colony on the 20th inst. from Australia by the *Kasuga Maru*, accompanied by her three daughters and son.

Mr. R. F. Johnston, of the Colonial Secretary's Office, returned on the 21st inst. by the *Chowtai* from Bangkok, having successfully completed an overland trip through Tonkin, Yunnan, the Shan States, and Siam.

Mr. W. H. Wilkinson, H.B.M. Consul at Ningpo, who has been appointed Consul-General for Yunnan and Kweichow, was among the passengers who arrived on the *Canton* on Tuesday, on his way to Yunnan via Burma.

The polo match at Causeway Bay on the 17th inst. between sides representing Hongkong and Kowloon ended in a victory for the former by 1 goal to 3 subsidiaries. The band of the 14th Bombays played during the match, and there was a fair attendance of spectators.

The police report that on the 17th inst. while Thomas Duncan (36), engineer, was walking eastwards in Queen's Road he was seen suddenly to stagger and fall into the side channel opposite No. 48. When the passers-by went to pick him up he was dead. The body was taken to the mortuary. For some time past the deceased had been in ill health and he was addicted to heavy drinking.

While a well-dressed Chinese woman was walking along Wing Lok Street a mischievous schoolboy of the same nationality squirted ink from a pocket ink-well on to her face and fine clothes. He was arrested and taken before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy, where he was fined for assault and ordered to pay \$20 compensation to the woman, with the option of going to prison for six weeks.

The rate at which the public gharries run in Hongkong would make one think that the most slow-footed pedestrian could get easily out of the way of them, but not so Chan Hing, a youth of 21, who was unfortunate enough to be run over by one of these vehicles in Queen's Road West. He had to be sent to hospital, suffering from injuries to his foot.

A meeting was held on the 19th inst. at the Central Police Station to make arrangements for the annual rifle-shooting match between the Inspectors of Police and the Sergeants. This is one of the most enjoyable outings that fall to the lot of any section of the Force. It is more of the nature of a picnic than a regular shooting match. It takes place at Taiping Range on Chinese New Year's Day. There are ten men a-side and the stipulation is that the losers pay the day's "damage," which cannot but be considerable when twenty stalwart members lay themselves out for a day's enjoyment. A committee consisting of Inspectors Baker and Robertson, Sergeants McSwayed and McHardy was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the outing.

The spectacle of a burning junk being towed across the harbour by a couple of launches, while a third towed a floating engine on which were firemen who directed streams of water upon the flames, attracted considerable attention about 10 a.m. on the 20th inst. The junk, having on board a general cargo, took fire from some cause at present unknown whilst lying off the Harbour Office, and blazed up quickly. From all accounts there was no one aboard at the time, or at least very soon after the outbreak made itself apparent, the only living thing seen being a dog which feared to take to the water and remained on the junk till it was beached at Chungshawan, near Laichikok, when it was persuaded to jump and was hauled in safety into a sampan. Mr. Ed. Jones, of the Harbour Office, had charge of one of the launches which towed the junk from its place amongst the other native craft, which stood in danger of catching fire from the live embers thrown into the air and dropping in all directions, and the other launch was a naval one manned by bluejackets; the launch towing the floating engine of the Fire Brigade was that of Mr. D. Macdonald, engineer of the Brigade. Soon after being beached at Chungshawan an explosion of gunpowder occurred on board the junk, which carried some of the old ordnance common to native boats of the type. No one was injured by the explosion, which completely wrecked the junk and destroyed the cargo. The damage is stated to be covered by insurance.

In the final of the Morrison Lawn Tennis Club's tournament, which was played on Friday afternoon, Mr. H. J. W. Gidley (owes 30) beat Mr. Z. von Stockhausen (owes 15) by 6-3.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 18th January were 28 non-Chinese and 87 Chinese to the former, and 58 non-Chinese and 2,928 Chinese to the latter institution.

In the course of the hearing of an arson case at the Criminal Sessions on the 21st inst., the Chief Justice remarked that he saw from the depositions taken at the Magistracy that the evidence had not been taken so fully as it might have been there in order to avoid delaying the case over till next Sessions. He did not see that there was any special reason why the case should not have been taken at the next Sessions. He considered, himself, that there should have been a little more evidence taken down at the Magistracy. The Attorney-General said he supposed the reason was that the accused was in custody and for his sake they wanted the case disposed of. The Chief Justice remarked that doubtless there was some such reason. The subject then dropped.

The annual report of the above school, at which the ceremony of distributing the prizes was performed on the 16th inst. by Mr. Lo Koon Ting, bars that the institution was opened in February, 1902. The number of boys enrolled during the year was 716. The average nightly attendance was 160. The number of actual working nights was 218. Four classes were opened during the first half-year, but owing to the great increase in the number of applicants for admission, three more classes were opened after the summer holidays. The number of boys so rapidly increased out of all proportion to my expectation (says Mr. Chan Hewan, the superintendent) that it is evident English education for the working classes of the Chinese community is urgently needed in this Colony. The prize-list is as follows:—1st Class: 1st, Tang Cheung In (\$50); 2nd, Tang Shing Cheung (watch); 3rd, Wong Man Yun (watch); 4th, Wong Shing Fan (watch); 5th, Cheung Chui Ngan (book). 2nd Class: 1st, Ho Pak Kui (\$25); 2nd, Wong Chan Wong (watch). 3rd Class: 1st, Chung Kam Tong (watch); 2nd, Lui Man Tai (watch); 3rd, Lui Man Shui (watch). 4th Class: 1st, Chan Kwun (watch); 2nd, Yuen Chun Wa (watch); 3rd, So Man Hung (watch). 5th Class: 1st, Yuen Tai Tin (watch); 2nd, Luk Luen Cho (watch); 3rd, Chui Kai Kwun (watch). Special subject: Translations, Shum Wai (\$25); English History, Leung Nai Shing (\$25); Composition, Wong Kum Ying (six books).

Lieut. G. J. B. Sayer has been appointed Captain in the Volunteer Corps, vice Captain Forbes, resigned. Captain A. B. Greave, has been granted leave of absence until the 8th May. —Volunteers will be interested to hear that Captain F. O. Stedman has consented to take another ambulance class through a course of lectures if sufficient members can be obtained. —On Saturday there was a parade of the Corps at Headquarters and the Coronation medals were presented to those members who were in the Colony during the Coronation Commandant C. G. Pritchard performing the ceremony, which was a purely informal affair. The Corps afterwards proceeded to Belcher's Fort for practice. —By the way, the 17th inst. drills are not very much appreciated by members of the Corps, as is shown by the usually small attendance, and it is hoped that the General Commanding the Troops will soon be in a position to have guns provided at Headquarters to obviate the necessity which exists at present for a long journey to the fort for gun-drill. —The Corps will parade at Headquarters on Chinese New Year's Day, the 29th inst., at 10 a.m., and proceed to Stonecutters' Island for gun-drill and firing for artillery companies and electrical work for the engineer company, and if time permits infantry drill in the afternoon. Luncheon will be provided, and lists have been sent to each Officer Commanding units to ascertain what men can be present at the parade. It is requested that members will as soon as possible be good enough to forward their names to their O. C. if they are able and willing to attend the parade, so that arrangements may be made for refreshments, etc.

Mr. Roosegaarde Bieschop, who is now in Holland, has been appointed chief agent at Hongkong of the Java-Japan steam navigation line.

A sealed handicap tournament has commenced at the Hongkong Chess Club with the following entries:—Messrs. Danenberg, Dastur, E. J. Davies, W. Davies, Ellis, Houghton, Moses, Newborn, Pelling, Pollock, Raymond, Setna, De Souza, and Swaby. The prizes will be the entrance fees plus a small donation from the Club funds.

During the 24 hours ended at noon on the 21st inst. two fatal (Chinese) cases of plague were reported. These are the second and third cases which have occurred this year. One came from Wing Fung Street and the other from Taiping-shan Street. The first case of the year was a Chinaman found dead at Mongkok on the 10th inst.—A fourth was reported on Saturday.

The Supreme Court returns are published in the *Gazette*. From the return of all sums collected in the Registry of the Supreme Court in 1902 and paid into the Treasury it appears that \$30,275.42 was the year's total, against \$39,904.72 in 1901. In the latter year the item Land Office fees, \$14,645.50 appears, whereas in 1902 this item is absent.

The police report that about eight o'clock on the 14th inst. the steamer *Hansa* on her way to Canton, collided near the Capsuimuh Pass with a cargo-laden trading junk, which she cut into and sank. On board the junk were twenty Chinese, and all of these were precipitated into the water. The steamer was stopped as quickly as possible and boats were lowered which picked up the struggling people, none of whom was lost. The *Hansa* then steamed back to the harbour and landed the rescued Chinese. The junk and cargo were valued at \$5,000.

On the 17th the British sloop *Phoenix* arrived from Pakhoi, the Italian cruiser *Piemonte* from Singapore, and the French gunboat *Avulanche* from Canton. On the 18th inst. the French cruiser *Chateaurenault* came in from Tonkin and the Royal Siamese yacht *Maha Chakreri* from Nagasaki.

On the 21st inst. the British cruiser *Pique* arrived from Shanghai and the German gunboat *Tiger* from Bangkok. The Italian cruiser *Piemonte* left for Shanghai.

The German cruiser *Hansa* from Nimrod Sound, the British sloop *Algerine* from Canton, and the French gunboat *Surprise* from Foochow arrived on the 22nd inst. The *Surprise* left again for Saigon.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The total issue of convertible notes by the Bank of Japan is now 212,000,000 yen, and the specie reserve is 109,000,000.

It is reported in a despatch from Shimonoseki that the British authorities have decided to establish a sub-consular office at Moji.

The *Sanuki Maru* had a very rough voyage from Hongkong to Kobe, and a piece of machinery weighing about two tons, which was thought to be well secured in her hold, shifted on to the hatch, though it did not break through.

According to returns issued by the Kobe Customs, the number of foreign vessels entering Kobe last year was 1,546 their aggregate tonnage being 3,311,569, an increase of 71 vessels compared with the number which entered the port in 1901, and of 276,620 in tonnage.

The General Committee of the Progressist party in Japan conclude a report on the seventeenth session of the Diet by vigorously condemning the Government for dissolving a House in which the Opposition commanded 300 votes out of 376, and for proposing a compromise that involved various retrenchments in the face of a previous declaration that no retrenchments were possible.

The *Manila Times* gives particulars of a leper-town to be founded shortly in the Philippines. All lepers there will be deported to Culion, an islet in the middle of the group south-west of the island of Mindoro. The site for the leper-town has already been marked out. Marriages between the leper settlers will be forbidden. The lepers will be allowed home rule and will be given land for cultivation. The lepers in the islands are estimated to number ten thousand.

The date of closing of the Hanoi Exposition has been further postponed to the 15th prox.

The death is reported at Taku of Mr. E. Riley, of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., aged 31.

News has been received of the death from small pox, on the 10th inst., of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's agent at Nanking, Mr. H. E. Meade, aged 27 years.

The first of the revenue cruisers built for the Philippines Government in Japan arrived at Nagasaki from Uraga on the 8th inst. and was to undergo minor repairs before proceeding to Manila.

The *Nagasaki Press* says that two of the Mitsui Bishi's coal vessels suffered in the recent storm. The *Unko Maru* was knocked about and her boatswain drowned, and it is feared that the *Yawata Maru* sank altogether.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 10th January:—There have been two fires this month. One took place on the 2nd instant in a village of farm-houses near the Kuliang Creek, completely destroying it, together with its stores of grain straw and its agricultural implements; the other occurred on the 8th inst. in the long street leading from the bridge to the city, near the halfway tea-house, and in spite of the best endeavours of the authorities to check the conflagration, nearly 100 houses were burnt down before it could be got under.—The two Foochow griffins sent down for the Amoy Race Meeting distinguished themselves, *Blancmange* having won the Haekwan Cup, 1 mile, and *Calibre* the Chassze Cup, 1½ mile.—The usual Monthly Cup competition of the Foochow Gun Club took place on Green Island on Wednesday and resulted in a very close finish. Mr. G. L. Greig headed the score, and is now the holder of the Cup for the second time.

The Japanese *Gazette Official* announces that Dr. Ishigami Toru, head of the Osaka Vaccine Lymph Laboratory, has discovered the germ of small-pox. Dr. Ishigami, who is a pupil of Dr. Kitasato, has been engaged in this investigation since 1893, with intermissions. In 1893 he gave up the work owing to pressure of official duties, but having been appointed, in 1896, a teacher in the Naval College, he obtained access to the necessary instruments, and resumed his efforts, changing his line of enquiry. Another interruption occurred from a similar cause, and not until 1898, when he was appointed head of the Osaka Vaccine Lymph Laboratory, could he devote himself again to study. Two years later he found a microscopic green bacillus in the pus of the disease, and subsequent experiments showed him that this animalcule is not only the prime cause of small-pox, but also that associated with it is another bacillus which is extensively present in skin-diseases of animals and human beings. He separated the two and succeeded in cultivating them so as to obtain clear proof that onus is the germ of small-pox. He has prepared an accurate account of his investigations and their result, appending a drawing of the bacillus.

The following items are from the *Manila Cablenews*:—Secretary Root has requested Congress to appropriate another quarter of a million dollars for the building of barracks in the Philippines. A half million has already been appropriated but many complaints have been received of the insufficiency of this amount for the work that has been planned.—Brigadier-General Leonard Wood has made a formal application for service in the Philippines. The application was made to the Secretary of War and is now under consideration. It is believed that it will be granted and that General Wood will succeed General Davis when the latter returns to the United States for retirement. General Davis will retire under the age limit next July and will probably be ordered home some time before that date.—It is stated from Washington that the programme mapped out by the Administration is that Governor Taft shall return to the United States in the spring or early summer and will then succeed Secretary Root as Secretary of War. The supposed object of this move is that Governor Taft shall be in more complete control of Philippine affairs and may bring his knowledge of conditions to bear. Mr. W. W. Kockhill will then succeed to the vacant place on the Commission. General Wright will leave San Francisco about 1st February to return to the Philippines.

News has been received of the death of the Rev. D. C. Rankin, D.D., at Pyengyang, Corea, on 27th December. He succumbed to an attack of acute pneumonia after a brief illness.

The last of the ten cruisers ordered from Messrs. S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., of Shanghai, for the Philippine Insular Government, the *Tablas*, successfully completed her trial on the 15th inst. and was expected to sail for Manila early this week.

In the collision between the *Minna* and *Yinkow* at Chefoo, the former sank in 20 minutes, all the crew and passengers being in that time saved by the *Yinkow*, with the exception of two Chinese who were too anxious to save their belongings. A valuable cargo of silk was lost.

It may be remembered that a fraudulent American by name of Clifford was recently sentenced to a term of imprisonment at Kobe. We see from the Kobe papers that as Clifford was being conveyed through the town to the Minatogaga gaol, he succeeded in escaping from the custody of the police.

A telegram dated Washington, December 23rd, says:—The Secretary of State is preparing a suitable response to a special message to the President from the Dowager-Empress of China. This message was personally entrusted to Rear-Admiral Frederick Rogers, recently detached from the command of the Asiatic Station, and was delivered to the President last week.

Owing to the growing dimensions which the rebellion in Kwangsi province has now attained, says the *N. C. Daily News*, the Governors of the two provinces of Yunnan and Kweichow, lying adjacent to that province, have made arrangements with Governor Wang Chih-chun of Kwangsi to join forces and, if possible, confine the outbreak to the latter province alone. With this as the basis of operations the territorial armies of the three provinces will converge from three points and try to surround the rebel forces somewhere near the central portion of Kwangsi. This projected movement is, however, considered to be rather late in the day in the South as the rebels have now burst beyond bounds.

A New York telegram of the 15th inst. to the *Manila Cablenews* says that the National Board of Trade passed yesterday a resolution in which it endorses the application of the Philippine merchants for the admission of Chinese labourers to the islands. The board proposes certain restrictions whereby the United States shall be protected against the Chinese reaching the United States by way of the Philippines and also to assure the protection of American commercial interests against possible competition. The National Board of Trade is the most powerful body of its kind in the United States, and represents all the commercial interests of the country. Its recommendations may be expected to have a wide effect in Congress.

The *Straits Times* in its Netherlands India note says that the doubts of the titular Sultan of Achén's death have been justified by news that a letter from him has been received by the Governor of Achén. In this letter the Sultan has offered his submission. The Governor of Achén has gone to meet him. The Sultan is supposed to have been discouraged by ceaseless pursuit and by the capture of his wives, including the favourite with her son. The secret of her hiding place was betrayed to a passing patrol. Many so-called well-disposed Achinese have rendered the Netherlands forces good service in this way. These very services have largely contributed to the ill-success of the Netherlands in Achén. The friendlies find themselves in a difficult position among their fellows, from failure of the Government to protect them afterwards. The troops in the field are too few to form an army of occupation. A detachment which had overcome a hostile band through the information given by friendlies has too often to move away in search of the enemy elsewhere, thereby leaving the friendlies to their fate. The friendlies cannot protect themselves, from their having been disarmed by the Government along with the disaffected Achinese. Hence they find themselves at the mercy of the evil-disposed. Among the Achinese generally, this holds good chiefly in the distant coast states. Mistrust has thereby been aroused both as to the power of the Hollanders and as to their good faith.

The Japan Mail says that it is reported to the Asahi from Peking that Taotai Sheng puts the cost of purchasing the telegraphs at 5,400,000 taels, whereas the estimate of Viceroy Yuan is 2,400,000 taels. The shares of the Telegraph Company have fallen from 180 taels to 70; yet they find no buyers among the Chinese; foreigners alone purchase them.

Two European deaths are reported from Tokyo. Mr. Emil Nisse, of Messrs. Siemens and Halske, who had been five years in the port, died there of apoplexy on the 2nd inst., whilst Captain W. N. Mitchell, of Messrs. C. Nickel & Co., who was in capital health and spirits on the evening of the 3rd, died suddenly the same night, aged 81.

The fall of the dollar has told adversely on the Java sugar trade. Large quantities of that article used to be exported from there to China. Dealers at Soerabaya now hardly buy up any sugar, owing to the decline in dollar rates, notwithstanding the fact that quotations for the article outside Java are firm and advancing. The losses from the steady fall in silver are so great that they prefer not to run risks in the China market.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd January.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd January.—The position of the market is the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	.....	\$8.10 to \$8.15	per cwt.
Do. " 2, White	.....	7.00 to 7.65	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	.....	6.05 to 6.10	"
Do. " 2, Brown	.....	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	.....	8.00 to 8.45	"
Do. " No. 1, White	.....	7.45 to 7.50	"
Do. " 1, Brown	.....	5.75 to 5.85	"
Do. " 2, Brown	.....	5.00 to 5.65	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	.....	12.15 to 12.20	"
Shekloong "	.....	9.00 to 9.65	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd January.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	.....	\$3.55 to 3.60	
" Round, Good quality	.....	5.55 to 5.60	
" Long	.....	5.90 to 5.95	
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	.....	3.70 to 3.75	
" Garden, " No. 1	.....	4.55 to 4.60	
" White	.....	6.00 to 6.05	
" Fine Cargo	.....	6.20 to 6.25	

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 23rd January.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$8.00 to \$13.00	per bale
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00	"
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00	"
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00	"
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00	"
COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40	
" 7 lbs.	2.45 to 2.70	
" 8.4 lbs.	3.30 to 3.92	
" 9 to 10 lbs.	4.00 to 5.50	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.8 to 3.00	
" 58 to 60 "	3.45 to 3.75	
" 64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50	
" Fine	5.75 to 8.00	
" Book-folds	4.75 to 7.30	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.78 to 1.50	
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y	2.00 to 2.30	
" 7 lbs. (32 "), "	2.35 to 2.75	
" 6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.40 to 2.55	
" 7 lbs. (32 "), "	2.95 to 3.50	
" 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.30 to 3.90	
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14 lbs.	4.75 to 7.30	
FANCY COTTONS—		
Turkey Red Shirtings—11 to 8 lbs	1.50 to 4.85	
Brocades—Dyed	— to —	
DAMASKS—		per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	— to —	
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.27 to 0.60	
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.37 to 5.00	per dozen
WOOLLENS—		per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.65 to 2.25	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.85 to 8.25	
" Assorted	7.00 to 9.40	
Camlets—Assorted	15.50 to 34.00	
Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches	12.50 to 17.00	
" Assorted	— to —	
Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —	

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	.....	0.65 to 0.80	per pair
Fine quality,	.....	1.40 to 2.10	"

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	.....	4.70 to —	per picul
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	.....	4.70 to —	"
Swedish Bar	.....	4.80 to —	"
Small Round Rod	.....	5.10 to —	"
Hoop & to 11 1/2 in.,	.....	6.25 to —	"
Wire, 16, 25,	.....	9.50 to —	"
Old Wire Rope	.....	3.50 to —	"
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	.....	8.50 to —	"
Australian	.....	8.50 to —	"
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	.....	41.00 to —	"
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	.....	41.00 to —	"
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	.....	41.00 to —	"
Composition Nails	.....	61.00 to —	"
Japan Copper, Slabs	.....	39.00 to —	"
Tin	.....	93.00 to —	"
Tin-Plates	.....	8.40 to —	box, per
Steel & to &	.....	6.50 to —	per cwt. case
SUNDRIES—			per picul
Quicksilver	.....	18.00 to —	"
Window Glass	.....	5.75 to —	per box.
Kerosene Oil	.....	3.00 to —	per 10-gal. case

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, January 23rd, 1903.—Enquiry has continued fairly general, and a moderate business has been transacted during the week which has elapsed since the issue of our last report. A further important advance in Banks has to be recorded.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued in strong demand, and to-day \$700 has been paid with the possibility of placing further shares at this figure. The latest London quotation is £64. Nationals are in request at \$224 ex the dividend of \$1.96 per share for 1902 paid yesterday.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have been booked at \$470, and continue in request. China Traders are weak with sellers at \$58. North Chinas have been placed in the north at Tls. 180. Cantons are procurable at \$14, and Yangtszes at \$133.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have declined to \$320 sellers. Chinas are firmer with buyers at \$6.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been done at \$38 and \$37, and at the close a few more shares are obtainable at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas are quoted \$88 locally, but in the north the quotation has fallen to the equivalent of \$86 with probable sellers. China Manilas can be placed to a small extent at \$25. Douglases have sold at \$44. Star Ferries (old) have been done and are in further request at \$25; the new issue has declined to \$14 with sales. Shell Transports are in strong demand at £1. 10s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have sold at \$91, and are now in request to some extent at \$92. Luzons are unchanged at \$124 sellers.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold and are still enquired for at \$2. Raubs have sold at \$7 1/2, but are now obtainable to a limited extent at \$7 1/4.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$202 1/2 and can still be placed at this figure. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$92 and \$93, closing with sellers at the higher rate. New Amoy Docks are unchanged at \$41.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed ownership at \$184 and (an odd lot) at \$185, and close with sellers at \$185. Kowloon Lands continue in request at \$31 1/2. West Points have declined to \$54 sellers. Humphreys Estates have been booked at \$12 1/2 and more shares are obtainable. Hongkong Hotels are reported sold at \$42, and are in further request at the figure. Oriente Hotels have been booked at \$30.

COTTON MILLS.—There are no changes to report under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have continued to ease off, and are now obtainable at \$21. A. S. Watsons are on the market at \$14 1/2. Electrics (old) are wanted at \$13.10; the new issue is offering at \$6.65. Dairy Farms are quiet at \$11. China Providents are offering at \$9 ex the dividend of 80 cents per

share for 1902 paid on the 19th instant. Powells are wanted at \$9 1/2. Alhambras have again declined, and are now quoted at \$350 sellers.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd., Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., and West Point Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 26th instant. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-year meeting on the 7th February. Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 2nd February. Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 7th February. Transfer books close on the 3rd February.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$695, buyers { L'don, £64.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$22 1/2, ex div., buy.
B. Shares	28	\$22 1/2, ex div.
Four. Shares	21	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$35.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	15	\$25, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	20	\$10, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	10	\$9, ex div., sellers
China Sugar	100	\$92, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$350, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$3, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 4.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 44.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$11.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$30.
Green Island Cement	10	\$21, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	10	\$13.10, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6.65, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$327.
Hk. Steam Water	\$0	\$11 1/2, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$142, sales & buy.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$93.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$120.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$202 1/2.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$164, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sellers
North China	225	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$470, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$133, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$185, sellers
Humphreys Estate	10	\$12 1/2.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$31 1/2, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$54, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$124, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$14, sellers
Punjom	10	\$2, buyers
Do. Preference	1	75 cents, sellers
Raubs	18	\$7 1/2, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$41.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$30, sales
Powell, Ltd.	10	\$9, ex div., sellers
Robinson Co. Piano, Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$25.
Douglas Steamship	\$25	{ nominal { \$14, sales
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$37 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$88.
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	\$21.10s, buyers
Star Ferry	10	{ \$25, buyers { \$14, sales
Tobran Planting Co.	\$5	nominal.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8 1/2, sellers
Do.	10	\$155.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$22 1/2, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$14 1/2, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 14th January (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). During the week under review, although a considerable number of transactions have taken place in various stocks, these have been on the whole for a limited number of shares. Notwithstanding the general expectation of a considerable weakening in the market towards the Chinese New Year, this, so far, has not been experienced, and stocks generally have maintained the quotations of last week. MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions changed hands locally at 460 and 462½, Ex. 72. China Traders are quoted at \$58, North Chinas are wanted at quotations, Tls. 180. Yangtzes are obtainable at 182½. FIRE INSURANCE.—Stocks under this heading are unchanged. SHIPPING.—Indo-Chinas.—A fair business has been done in this stock. The market at the beginning of the week opened for cash at Tls. 62½ and 63, fell slightly to 62 and 62½, and 62 for the settlement; yesterday shares changed hands at 61, forward sales have been effected at 62½ for February, and 65 and 64½ for May; Tls. 64 April and Tls. 63, June. Shell Transport and Trading Co. shares are wanted at 21. 15s. SUGARS.—Peraks are obtainable at Tls. 70, Chinas and Luzon are unchanged. MINING.—A considerable business has been done in China Engineering and Mining Company's shares at Tls. 8.25. Raubs are in demand at \$8. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. A steady business has taken place in these shares during the week at Tls. 180 and 177½ for cash and for the settlement 185 and 182½; Tls. 183½ for March, 185 for April. The market is steady at 180 for cash. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Cash shares have changed hands at Tls. 310 and are wanted at this rate. Other stocks under this heading unchanged. LAND.—We have no business to report. INDUSTRIAL.—A few transactions are reported in China Flours at Tls. 90 and 90½ for delivery on the settlement, and at Tls. 91 for February, and yesterday at 92 and 92½. In Cotton Companies no business is reported. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—These stocks have been neglected. MISCELLANEOUS.—Langkats. A considerable business has been done in these for cash at 165 and for January at 170, for March at 175 and April at 177½. There are strong buyers for cash for the purpose of effecting forward sales at the above rates, as the interest on the transaction, provided the forward contract is a good one, is a very handsome one to the investor. Shanghai Waterworks continue in demand with no shares offering. Shanghai Horse Bazaar. Offers are wanted for shares. Hal & Holtz have changed hands at \$34. Weeks & Co. at \$24. Lewellyn's at \$40. Astor House Hotels at \$82½, and Hotel des Colonies at \$16½. China Provident Loans have been done at \$10 ex. 73. LOANS.—Waterworks debentures have been done at Tls. 103½, and these and Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf debentures are enquired for.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 24th January.
EXCHANGE

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/6½
Bank Bills, on demand 1/6½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/7½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/7½
Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/7½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/7½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 196½
Credits, 4 months' sight 200½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 160½

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 38½
Credits, 60 days' sight 39

ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer 116½

Bank, on demand 116½

ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer 116½

Bank, on demand 116½

ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight 72

Private, 30 days' sight 72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand 76½

ON MANILA.—On demand p.c. pm.

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand 1 p.c. pm

ON BATAVIA.—On demand 94½

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand 1 p.c. pm.

ON SAIGON.—On demand 1 p.c. pm.

ON BANGKOK.—On demand 66½

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$12.70

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael \$67

BAR SILVER, per oz. 21½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Manila (str.), Tamba Maru (str.), Pyrrhus (str.).
FOR LONDON.—Chusan (str.), Telemachus (str.), Tamba Maru (str.), Prometheus (str.), Bingo Maru (str.), Machaon (str.), Diomed (str.), Manila (str.), Benedi (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Dardanus (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—Caledonien (str.), Tamba Maru (str.), Pyrrhus (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Darmstadt (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Wurzburg (str.), Ambria (str.), C. Ferd. Lacin (str.), Bamberg (str.), Andalusia (str.).
FOR GENOA.—Benedi (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.—Tirol (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Pleiades (str.), Kaga Maru (str.), Pakling (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.), Tartar (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Hindustan (str.), Indradeo (str.), Gibraltar (str.).
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indrapura (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Tinan (str.), Yawata Maru (str.), Australian (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Laisang (str.).
FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—Pekin (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Hiroshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.
16, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
16, Thea, German str., from Chinkiang.
17, Arnold Luyken, Ger. str., from Saigon.
17, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
17, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
17, Elita Nossack, Ger. str., from Chinkiang.
17, Else, German str., from Pakhoi.
17, Fansang, British str., from Moji.
17, Haliotis, Dutch str., from Palo Sambo.
17, Hanoi, French str., from Hoihow.
17, Hopsang, British str., from Wuhu.
17, Indravelli, British str., from Portland.
17, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
17, Kampot, French str., from Saigon.
17, Kwangleh, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
17, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
17, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
17, Nurnberg, German str., from Shanghai.
17, Piemonte, Italian cruiser, from Singapore.
17, Piönix, British sloop, from Pakhoi.
17, Silesia, Austrian str., from Kobe.
17, Taiyuan, British str., from Kobe.
17, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.
18, Canton, British str., from Chefoo.
18, Chaleaurenault, French cr., from Tonkin.
18, Chelydra, British str., from Samarang.
18, Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Celebes.
18, Doris, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
18, Hailoong, British str., from Amoy.
18, Haiphong, French str., from Haiphong.
18, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Tsintau.
18, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
18, Maha Chakreri, Siam yacht, from N'saki.
18, Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.
18, Tamsui, British str., from Chefoo.
18, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Victoria, Swedish str., from Straits.
18, Yikang, British str., from Hongay.
19, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
19, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
19, Prometheus, Norwegian str., from Moji.
19, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
19, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
19, Yangtze, British str., from Puget Sound.
19, Zafro, British str., from Manila.
20, Antenor, British str., from Yokohama.
20, Binh-Thuan, French str., from Saigon.
20, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Empress of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
20, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
20, Karsaint, French gunboat, from Canton.
20, Princess Irene, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
21, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Saigon.
21, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
21, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
21, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
21, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
21, Pique, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
21, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
21, Sabine Rickmers, British str., from Tamsui.
21, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
21, Tiger, German gunboat, from Bangkok.
21, Yunnan, British str., from Chingwangtau.
22, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.

22, Doris, Norwegian str., from Canton.
22, Hansa, German str., from Puget Sound.
22, Hua, French str., from Haiphong.
22, Kwangleh, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
22, Petchaburi, Ger. str., from Protolling.
22, Surprise, French gunboat, from Fochow.
22, Szechuen, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Tetartus, German str., from Singapore.
22, Tingang, British str., from Canton.
22, Tydeus, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Wingang, British str., from Canton.
23, Chwnshan, British str., from Saigon.
23, Deuteros, German str., from Swatow.
23, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
23, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notua.
23, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
23, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
23, Maria Rickmers, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
23, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
23, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
24, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
24, Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.
24, Cressy, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
24, Frithjof, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
24, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
24, Pleiades, American str., from Tacoma.
24, Salamanca, British str., from Swatow.
24, Sentis, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
24, Stuttgart, German str., from Bremen.
24, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
24, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
25, Caledonien, French str., from Yokohama.
25, Kalgan, British str., from Wuhu.
25, Tirol, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
25, Yochow, British str., from Wuhu.

January—

DEPARTURES.

17, Ballarat, British str., for Europe.
17, Bengloe, British str., for Japan.
17, Braemar, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Doris, British str., for Shanghai.
17, Kwangleh, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
17, Olympia, American str., for Tacoma.
17, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
17, Quang-nam, French str., for Saigon.
17, Sniang, British str., for Calcutta.
17, Thea, Norwegian str., for Canton.
18, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
18, Austria, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
18, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
18, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
18, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
18, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
18, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
18, Kiukiang, British str., for Swatow.
18, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
18, Wakamatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
19, Cassius, German str., for Karatsu.
19, Elita Nossack, German str., for Canton.
19, Hopsang, British str., for Canton.
19, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
19, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
19, Tsinan, British str., for Moji.
19, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
20, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
20, Else, German str., for Haiphong.
20, Emma Luyken, German str., for Saigon.
20, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
20, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Canton.
20, Kampot, French str., for Saigon.
20, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
20, Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
20, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
20, Nurnberg, German str., for Hamburg.
20, Rajaburi, German str., for Swatow.
20, Silesia, Austrian str., for Trieste.
20, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
20, Themis, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
20, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
21, Antenor, British str., for London.
21, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
21, Canton, British str., for London.
21, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
21, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
21, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
21, Haiphong, French str., for Haiphong.
21, Haliotis, Dutch str., for Swatow.
21, Irene, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
21, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
21, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
21, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
21, Mercedes, British str., for New Zealand.
21, Phra C. C. Klao, German str., for Pakhoi.
21, Piemonte, Italian cruiser, for Shanghai.
21, Princess Irene, German str., for Europe.
21, Tamsui, British str., for Canton.

21, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
 22, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 22, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 22, Irene, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 22, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 22, Lena, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
 22, Maha Chakreri, Siam yacht, for Bangkok.
 22, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 22, Surprise, French gunboat, for Saigon.
 22, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 23, Cassius, German str., for Yokohama.
 23, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 23, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 23, Hupeh, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 23, Kersaint, French gunboat, for Canton.
 23, Kutsang, British str., for Yokohama.
 23, Progress, German str., for Touroh.
 23, Robilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 23, Szechuen, British str., for Canton.
 23, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Tydens, British str., for London.
 23, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Yangtze, British str., for Manila.
 23, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 24, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 24, Chelydra, British str., for Moji.
 24, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 24, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Fausang, British str., for Kobe.
 24, Furst Bismarck, German str., for Amoy.
 24, Hertha, German cruiser, for Amoy.
 24, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Kingsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 24, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 24, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
 25, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 25, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
 25, Doria, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 25, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Stuttgart, German str., for Shanghai.
 25, Tiger, German str., for Canton.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Ballaarat*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Morse, Messrs. W. Jones Bonnett, A. C. Akehurst, C. D. N. James, T. Harper and F. W. Woollven; for London Col. Sergeants Harris and Barton, Messrs. J. T. Harfield and D. F. Finlayson.
 Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. M. Seely, Mrs. Hiro Matsuda and infant, Mrs. U. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Downey, Mrs. Hermana Fongree, Mrs. E. S. Kennison, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bryan, Mrs. C. Mayers, Mrs. and Miss Young, Mrs. A. Lichterberger, Misses Elsie and Elenor Lichterberger, Misses A. J. and I. E. Clark, Misses Livingston and A. Livingston, Miss D. Morton, Dr. Roscher, Messrs. J. I. Walter, D. A. Everett, H. J. Rosencrantz, J. J. Keegan and S. Matsuda.
 Per *Silesia*, from Kobe, H.E. the Austrian Minister Plenipotentiary and family.
 Per *Taiyuan*, from Kobe, Messrs. Mackenzie and Power.
 Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs. Atul Chinden Dutt and A. Anthia.
 Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Miss M. Kerst, Capts Selly and P. Wissing and Mr. P. Deefs.
 Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Lachlaus and son, Messrs. Boper and Reput.
 Per *Whampoa*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Sophia, Mrs. Clara and Mr. G. S. Paxton.
 Per *Kaga Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. F. Behell and child, Miss Nedobyty, Messrs. E. J. Webster, Blackwell, Tailor, C. E. Roach and Cosalta.
 Per *Coromandel*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Collett and child, Dr. R. Fielding Ould, Messrs. S. E. Fielding Ould, A. Semple, and L. Pax on: from Marseilles, Mrs. Ayerst; from Singapore, Dr. Morland; for Foochow, from London, Sergt. Dargan; for Shanghai, from London, Dr. Hanwell, Messrs. Wm. Bergen and W. T. Bidwell; from Marseilles, Mrs. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn and infant and Mr. I. Klubein; from Singapore, Mr. W. La Gro; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. P. Bure; from London, via Bombay, Mr. T. Dickin.

Per *Hailoong*, from Amoy, Messrs. Blaneht and Saddler.

Per *Haiphong*, from Haiphong, Mrs. Lamar, Messrs. Raveau, Manse, Guillaume, Morguene.

Per *Canton*, from Ch-fu, &c., Sergt. Rowe, R. E.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Messrs. R. Bouncken, Humpireys, E. Koppen, A. Goroztiza and Leancio Dians o.

Per *Rohilla Maru*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Lichter and children, General and Mrs. Bell, Capt. and Mrs. McKey, Capts. Whelan, Mead and Gaulding, Lieuts. McAndrews, Coorhis, Dean and Keppers, Major Beasley, Messrs. Leathe'd, Francis de Santi, Wm. Katz and F. O'Brien.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Mrs. Cameron, Capt. Pack, Major Carr, Messrs. H. C. Lane, Sadick, Corcoran, A. Campi, B. Bellew, V. Fernandez, R. Nulbill, S. Newman, J. Jackson, E. Arezabal, F. Hurst, H. Miller, and H. Redmond.

Per *Canton*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. W. H. Wilkinson; for London, Mr. W. P. W. Thomas.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. J. Haney, Misses Haney (2), Mr. and Mrs. E. Mast, Mrs. White and Mr. S. Mast; from Yokohama, Messrs. J. W. Ryland and J. M. Kinsey; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Vaile, Mrs. Livingston, Rev. E. F. Colman, Messrs. J. Suyenaga and C. Livingston; from Shanghai, Mr. H. A. Pattman and Master V. Quelch.

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Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Australia, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Lloyd and child, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Johnston, Lady Berkeley, Misses Berkeley (3), Master Berkeley, Mr. and Mrs. E. Godino and child, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Harts and child, Messrs. M. Mendlesohn, L. Barretto, J. C. Gerard, W. Davis, W. Dove, Morris, Herris and Y. Tokisada; for Nagasaki, Mrs. I. L. Perrin and Miss O. S. Delapena; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. Williams and child, Messrs. J. Nelson, W. Mooney, R. Edward, E. Edward, M. M. Edward, Goro Kuchi and I. C. Rudge.

Per *Daigi Maru*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. G. Forbes.

Per *Chowtai*, from Bangkok, &c., Messrs. Engelhardt, Rich and Johnston.

Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Messrs. A. M. Roza, R. Gruiz, Hayi Yoehye and Max Obleyen.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Hakata Maru*, for Japan, Col. and Miss Arbuthnot, Rev. and Mrs. C. H. B. Wcodd and Mr. Schrewer.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mrs. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Keith, Misses K. R. and R. W. Keith, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Kendall, Master Robert Kendall, Mrs. Wessel, Miss Liddell, Dr. H. R. Porter, Messrs. J. M. Lucsy, C. F. Henning, M. H. Means, R. A. Waller, A. F. Allen, P. Fuller, J. B. Anderson, A. Blas, F. Phillips, L. F. Holden, Barketali Khan, Muraka and P. Botelho.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. J. M. A. Batt; for Colombo, Mr. G. Turner; for London, Mrs. E. H. Peery, Misses Peery (3), Mrs. Wintour, Sergt. and Mrs. Horwell and two children, Mr. Bromner and Q.M.S. Polkinghorne; from Shanghai, for London, Col. Sergeants. Barton and Harrison, Messrs. J. T. Harfield and D. J. Finlayson.

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Per *Princess Irene*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. E. Vintschger and C. Brandt; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mrs. C. Livingston, Mrs. A. Livingston, Miss M. Livingston, Mrs. E. A. and Miss C. Young; for Suez, General and Mrs. Bell and Lieut. van Voorkis; for Naples, Rev. H. R. Talbot; for Genoa, Rev. and Mrs. C. Bone; for London, Mrs. Hood and child, Mrs. J. S. Smith and child, Mrs. Reid, Capt. Selby, Rev. C. F. Colman, Messrs. J. S. MacNab, M. McIver and R. L. Threlfile; for Bremerhaven, Mr. Richter and family.

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Per *Rohilla Maru*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. M. Earnshaw and two children, Mrs. Gavina Noguera, Mr. and Mrs. Sampedro, Mrs. R. Ehrlich, Mrs. R. Blathman, Mrs. Sayo Suda, Misses M. Wolf, A. Lanceman, Tamano Ito, Saki Tasoye, Tsune Hyuga, Francisca Pratt and Maria de la Cruz, Messrs. M. Shirashi, E. Zobel, A. Sternberg and Umegiro Shoho.

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